美味しんぼ
21

雁屋 哲・花咲アキラ

スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／

めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……全15巻
冒険してもいい頃（みやすのんき）……全11巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
Cryingフリーマン（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全９巻
二匹のブル（瀬叩龍・岩重孝）……全10巻
わたしは真悟（楳図かずお）……全10巻
瑠璃色ゼネレーション（柳沢きみお）…全７巻
キスより簡単（石坂啓）……全６巻
夢みるトマト（石坂啓）……全６巻
アレルギー戦士（石坂啓）……全１巻
極めてかもしだ（山本直樹）……全６巻
はっぱ64（山本直樹）……全３巻
スローニン（吉田聡）……全４巻
ブルー・ジーン（くじらいいくこ）……全３巻
僚平㊙事情（六田登）……全２巻
1½いっかにぶんのいち（むつ利之）…全２巻
ガルルル（むつ利之）……全２巻
表萬家裏萬家（澤井健）……全２巻
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）……全１巻
うにばーしてぃBOYS（細野不二彦）全１巻
座・スターダスト（国友やすゆき）…全１巻
美紅・舞子（西村しのぶ）……全１巻

装丁／海野一雄　　カバー・フォト／菊地和男

美味しんぼ
21
穏やかな御馳走
作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ
◆
小学館
BC2031

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ 21

穏やかな御馳走

作・雁屋哲 画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BC2031

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雁屋 哲 著作集
花咲アキラ

■ ビッグコミックス

美味しんぼ……Ⅰ～22集発売中

■スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／■

美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）…1～22集
なぜか笑介（聖日出夫）……1～21集
F〈エフ〉（六田登）……1～15集
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）……1～12集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）……1～11集
マドンナ（くじらいいくこ）……1～10集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）…1～6集
男樹（本宮ひろ志）……1～6集
ツルモク独身寮（窪之内英策）……1～5集
出直しといで！（一色まこと）……1～4集
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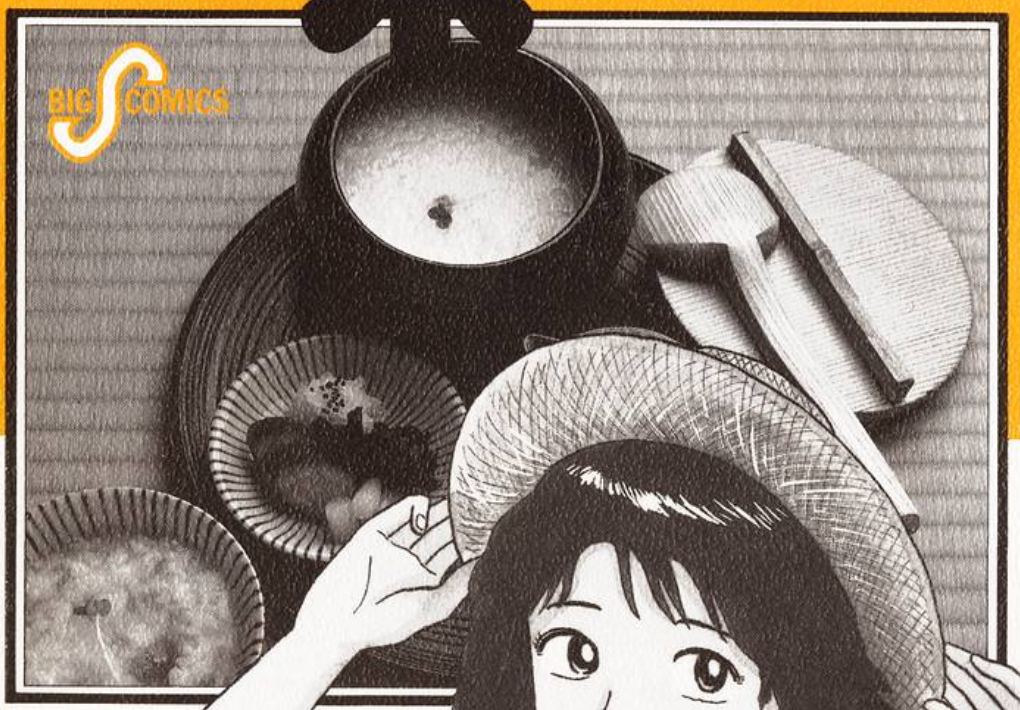
あさってDANCE（山本直樹）……1～2集

美味しんぼ



21 穏やかな御馳走

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

21 穏やかな御馳走

■瓢亭朝がゆ　7/1～8/31までの二か月間のみ供される。瓢箪三ツ重ね鉢、椀、焼物、瓢亭玉子に白がゆ、という献立。
（調理／瓢亭 TEL 075-771-4116）

美味(おい)しんぼ

美味しんぼ（おいしんぼ）

21 穏やかな御馳走

第1話　穏やかな御馳走……3
第2話　及第ガユ……23
第3話　新しい企画……45
第4話　禁断の鳥……65
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第6話　カジキの真価……109
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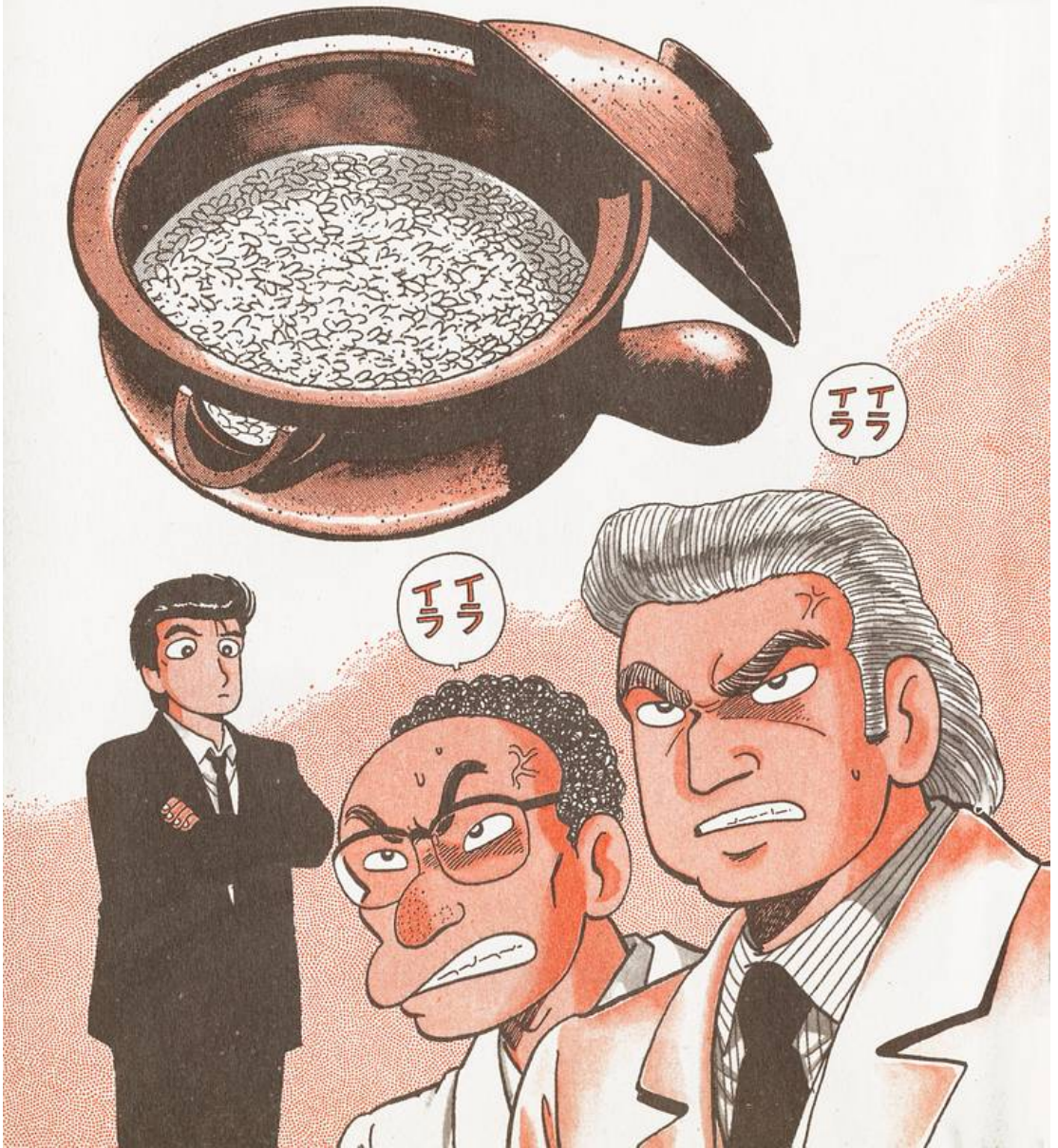
第8話　日本の根っこ……153
第9話　辛し明太子……175
第10話　命と器……197

第1話
穏やかな御馳走



HAPPY NEW YEAR!
THIS YEAR, TABATA-SAN WILL FINALLY START A NEW LIFE WITH ARAKAWA-SAN.
OH MY, HOW EMBARRASSING!

2

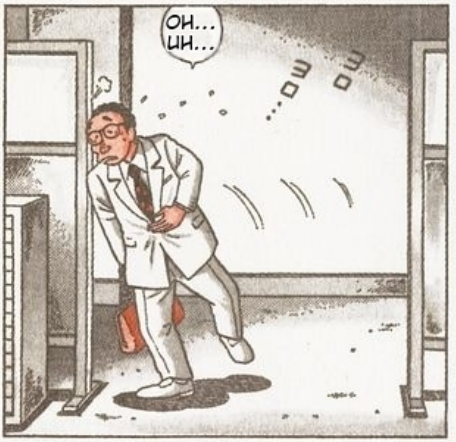
LOOKS LIKE A POOR LITTLE JIZO STATUE WHO'S BEEN SITTING IN THE SUN TOO LONG—WHAT A SIGHT!
OH! WHEN AN OLD MAID BLUSHES, IT'S QUITE THE SPECTACLE.
UNLIKE MITANI-SAN WHO MARRIED AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
WELL, I MANAGED SOMEHOW...

DELICIOUS!

ALRIGHT, LET'S RAISE A GLASS TO KICK OFF THE WORK YEAR!
おはは

I SHOULD GIVE HIM A GENEROUS ONE SINCE WE'LL BE RELYING ON HIM THIS YEAR!
HEY, I HAVEN'T GIVEN YAMAOKA-SAN HIS NEW YEAR'S GIFT YET!
ボコボコ
ボコ
ぎえぇっ

I THOUGHT IT WAS UNUSUALLY QUIET AROUND HERE...
OH... IT SEEMS TOMII-KUN IS STILL NOT HERE.


OH... UH...
...ㅁㅁㅁ

へへ...

3

I OVERINDULGED AND NOW MY STOMACH IS IN SHAMBLES...
WITH THE NEW YEAR JUST WRAPPING UP YESTERDAY, I THREW A LAVISH FEAST OF OSECHI CUISINE,

WHAT'S THE MATTER, TOMII-KUN? ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?
WELL, THIS IS QUITE EMBARRASSING...

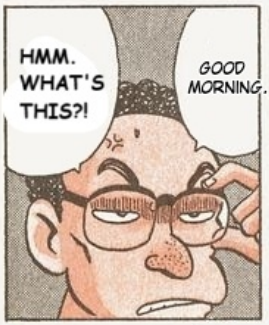
DIRECTOR, ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL AT ALL?
SAME TO YOU, DIRECTOR KOIZUMI!
HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE...
I'VE BEEN STUCK WITH THIS TUMMY TROUBLE THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR...
MY STOMACH IS IN COMPLETE CHAOS...
YEAH... I'VE BEEN BATTLING A COLD SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR...
WELL, DIRECTOR, THEY SAY THOSE WHO DON'T STRESS OUT HAVE STRONG STOMACHS!
4
TOMII'S ONLY ILL BECAUSE HE DRANK TOO MUCH!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THAT?!
AH, I SEE. THIS PAIN IS SOMETHING ONLY THOSE AFFLICTED CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TOMII?
OH DEAR, IS THE DIRECTOR HAVING STOMACH ISSUES TOO? I'M DEALING WITH A TUMMY TROUBLE MYSELF!

DELICIOUSNESS REPORT 21

OH, GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING!
YOU ABSOLUTE FOOL!!
YESTERDAY WAS A TOTAL DISASTER.
I'M ALREADY WORRIED ABOUT HOW THIS YEAR WILL TURN OUT.
SERIOUSLY, GETTING CHEWED OUT ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF WORK...
THIS IS NO BETTER THAN SOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS NEWSPAPER!
IS THIS ALL YOU CAN WRITE? HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A REPORTER?!

DELICIOUSNESS WARS 2!

7



AH...
CAN YOU BELIEVE THEY CAN'T EVEN TIDY UP THEIR OWN DESK ANYMORE?
WHEN WOMEN GET MARRIED, IT'S LIKE THEIR TRUE COLORS COME OUT, OR THEY JUST GET SO BOLD...
YOU REALLY DIDN'T NEED TO SAY SOMETHING SO NASTY...
IT'S AWFUL.
AHH- CHOI NA CHOI NA♬
♬ AT THE START OF THE YEAR, IT'S ONLY FITTING- TAKING A DAY OFF FROM WORK IS QUITE THE JOY-
IT WAS TERRIBLE IN THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT TOO!!
...OH, DIRECTOR KOIZUMI GOT MAD IN THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT TOO?
YAMAOKA -!
PARASITE OF THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT -! SALARY THIEF! HARBINGER OF DOOM-!!

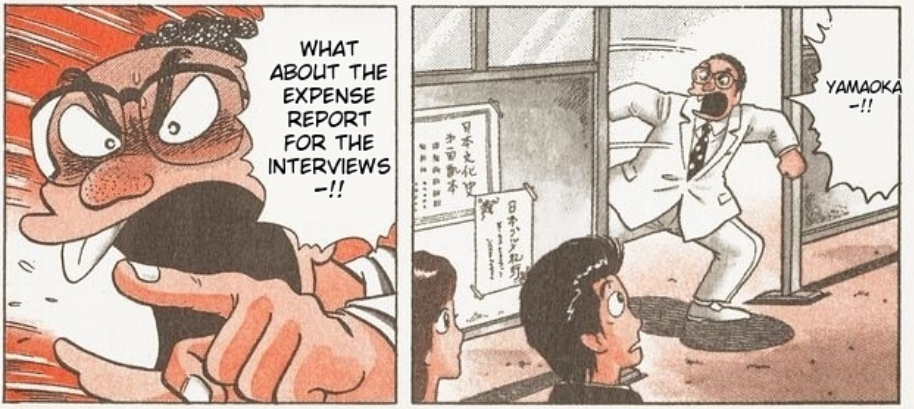
8

DELICIOUSNESS REPORT 21

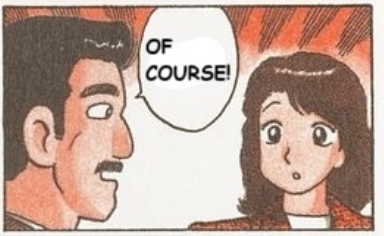
9

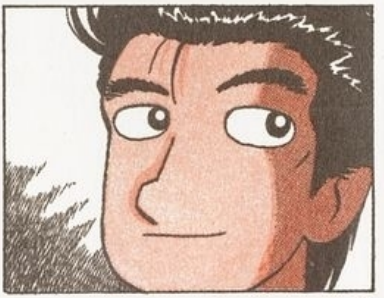
WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT, HE SAYS HE CAN REST WHENEVER, EVEN AFTER HE'S DEAD...
...I THINK THE DIRECTOR SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF AND HEAL HIS STOMACH...
IF THAT HYSTERIC BECOMES AN EXECUTIVE, OUR COMPANY IS TOAST.
IMAGINE HOW THINGS WILL BE WHEN DIRECTOR KOIZUMI BECOMES AN EXECUTIVE...
IF WE DON'T FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, THE DIRECTOR WILL LOSE EVERYONE'S TRUST...
WHAT THE HELL!
OH DEAR, IF YAMAOKA SAYS THAT, WE'RE REALLY IN TROUBLE.

10


WHAT ABOUT THE EXPENSE REPORT FOR THE INTERVIEWS -!!
YAMAOKA -!!

DELICIOUSNESS REPORT 21





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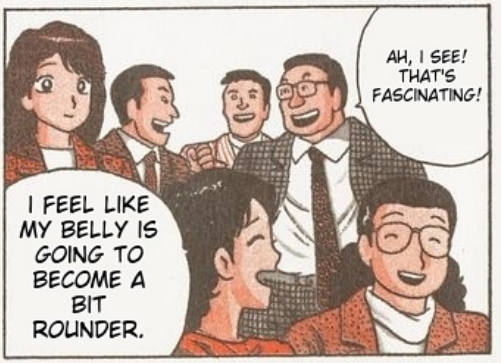
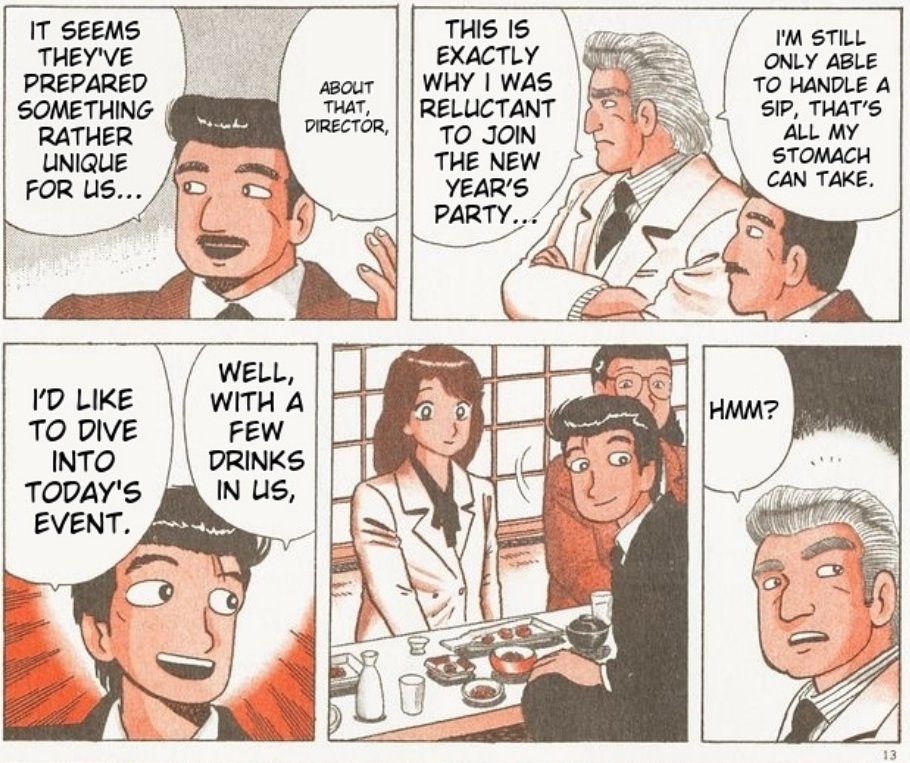


わはは
ドーン
HEY, TOMII, HOW'S YOUR STOMACH FEELING?
12
UGH... STILL THE SAME AS ALWAYS...
ブスー

DELICIOUSNESS REPORT 21



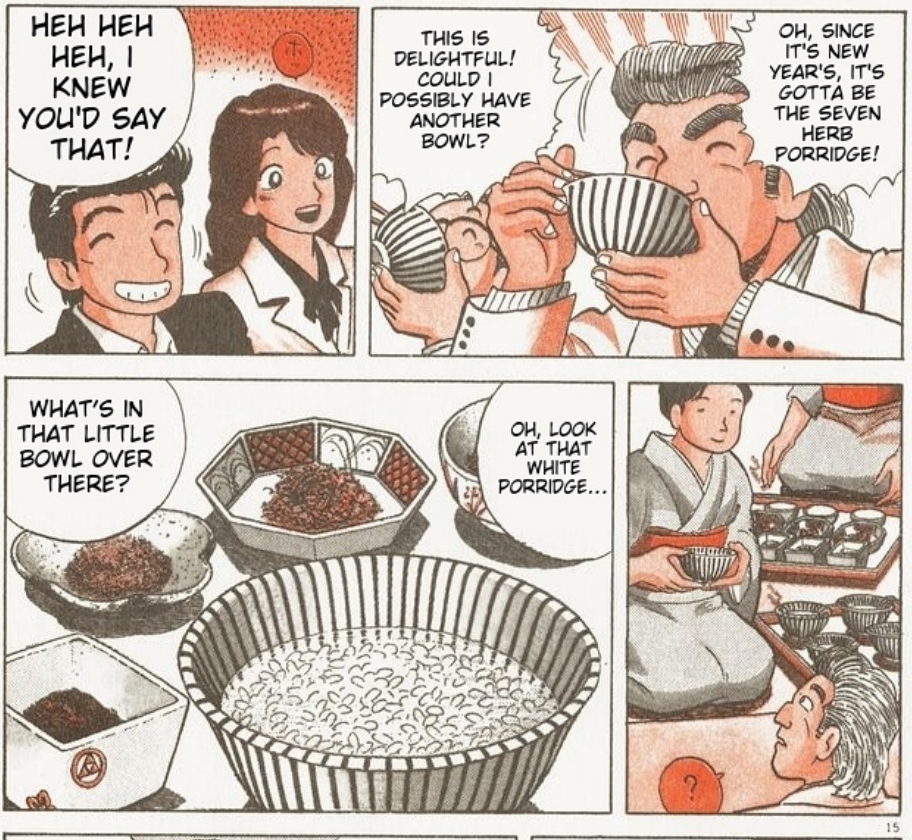
HUH?
ISN'T IT JUST PORRIDGE?

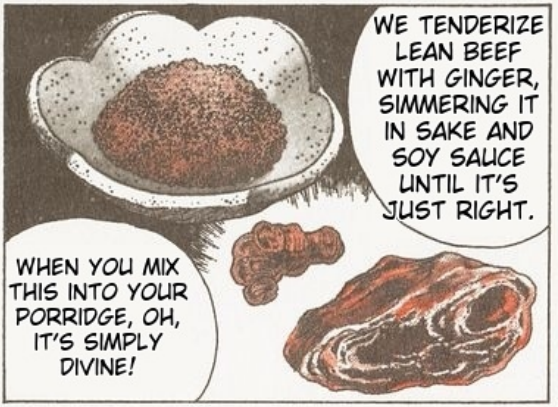
HOLD ON, THIS RICE PORRIDGE...
ズズ
YOU SCOUNDREL! YOU KNOW THE DIRECTOR DOESN'T ENJOY PORRIDGE, AND YET—
YOU DID THIS ON PURPOSE JUST TO TEASE THE DIRECTOR, DIDN'T YOU!
ガヤ

14

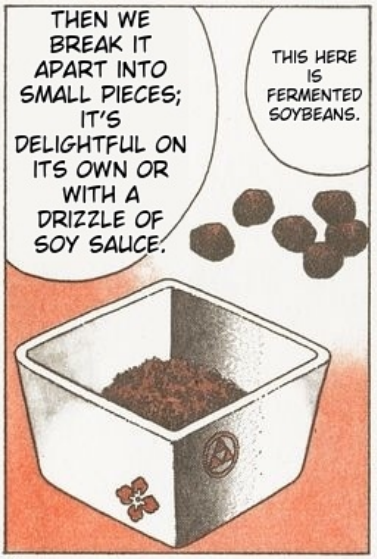
OH! THIS IS DELICIOUS!
ハフハフ
THE FRESH SCENT OF YOUNG GRASS BREAKING THROUGH THE FROZEN EARTH OF WINTER...
OH... OH... HOW UTTERLY REFRESHING...

DELICIOUSNESS REPORT 21

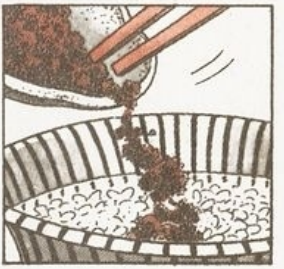



WE TENDERIZE LEAN BEEF WITH GINGER, SIMMERING IT IN SAKE AND SOY SAUCE UNTIL IT'S JUST RIGHT.
WHEN YOU MIX THIS INTO YOUR PORRIDGE, OH, IT'S SIMPLY DIVINE!

AH, AT MY PLACE, WE ADD SOME MINCED BEEF TO THE RICE PORRIDGE.


THEN WE BREAK IT APART INTO SMALL PIECES; IT'S DELIGHTFUL ON ITS OWN OR WITH A DRIZZLE OF SOY SAUCE.
THIS HERE IS FERMENTED SOYBEANS.

ﾌｧ



THIS WILL DEFINITELY GIVE YOU A BOOST.
HMM... JUST PICKLED PLUMS AND SHAVED BONITO SEEM TO LEAVE ME FEELING A BIT DRAINED.

16

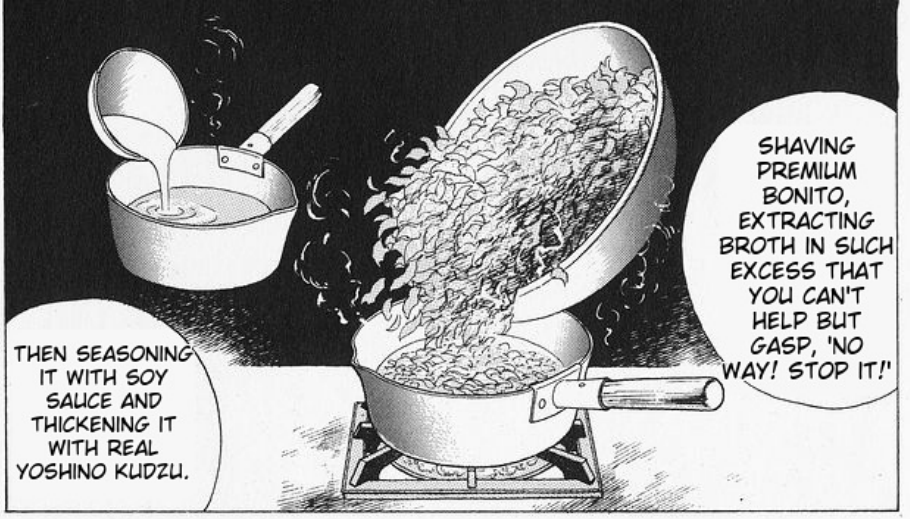
AFTER ALL, IT'S MADE FROM SOYBEANS -PACKED WITH NUTRITION!
THAT BITTERNESS HAS A CERTAIN CHARM, DOESN'T IT?

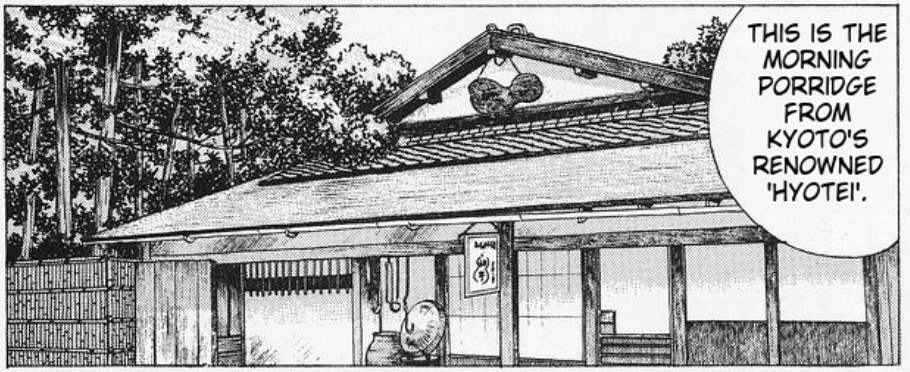
OH, NOW THAT'S A GROWN-UP FLAVOR!
ｼｬｷｰﾝ

DELICIOUSNESS REPORT 21

ISN'T THIS JUST PLAIN WHITE PORRIDGE...?
?
THE SECRET LIES WITHIN THIS CONTAINER.
ズズ
PLEASE POUR THIS SAUCE OVER THE PORRIDGE AND ENJOY.
トロ
IT'S THE ESSENCE OF BONITO FLAVOR!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?!
THIS IS TRULY THE ESSENCE OF BONITO FLAVOR!
WHOA! WHAT A DELICIOUSNESS?!

18


SHAVING PREMIUM BONITO, EXTRACTING BROTH IN SUCH EXCESS THAT YOU CAN'T HELP BUT GASP, 'NO WAY! STOP IT!'
THEN SEASONING IT WITH SOY SAUCE AND THICKENING IT WITH REAL YOSHINO KUDZU.


THIS IS THE MORNING PORRIDGE FROM KYOTO'S RENOWNED 'HYOTEI'.

BY PURSUING THE ULTIMATE FLAVORS OF BOTH, THEY'VE CREATED A WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF DELICIOUSNESS.
THEY TRULY UNDERSTAND THE DELICIOUSNESS OF RICE AND BONITO.

WITH SHAVINGS FROM SUCH HIGH-QUALITY BONITO, THERE'S JUST NO WAY TO GO WRONG HERE.
HMM... THEY'RE CERTAINLY NOT HOLDING BACK ON THE EXQUISITE KATSUO-BUSHI, ARE THEY?

19

TRANSFORMING RICE PORRIDGE INTO SUCH AN ELEGANT DISH IS NO SMALL FEAT...

GETTING MOODY JUST BECAUSE MY STOMACH'S ACTING UP AND LASHING OUT EVERYWHERE...
TODAY'S PORRIDGE HAS REALLY HIT HOME FOR ME...
OH, FOR YOU TO HAVE SUCH COMPASSION FOR ME, HOSTING THIS DELIGHTFUL PORRIDGE GATHERING...!
.....
.....

NOW, LET'S HAVE EVERYONE SHOWCASE THEIR PROUDEST PORRIDGE CREATIONS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER!
BUT WAIT, THERE'S STILL MORE!

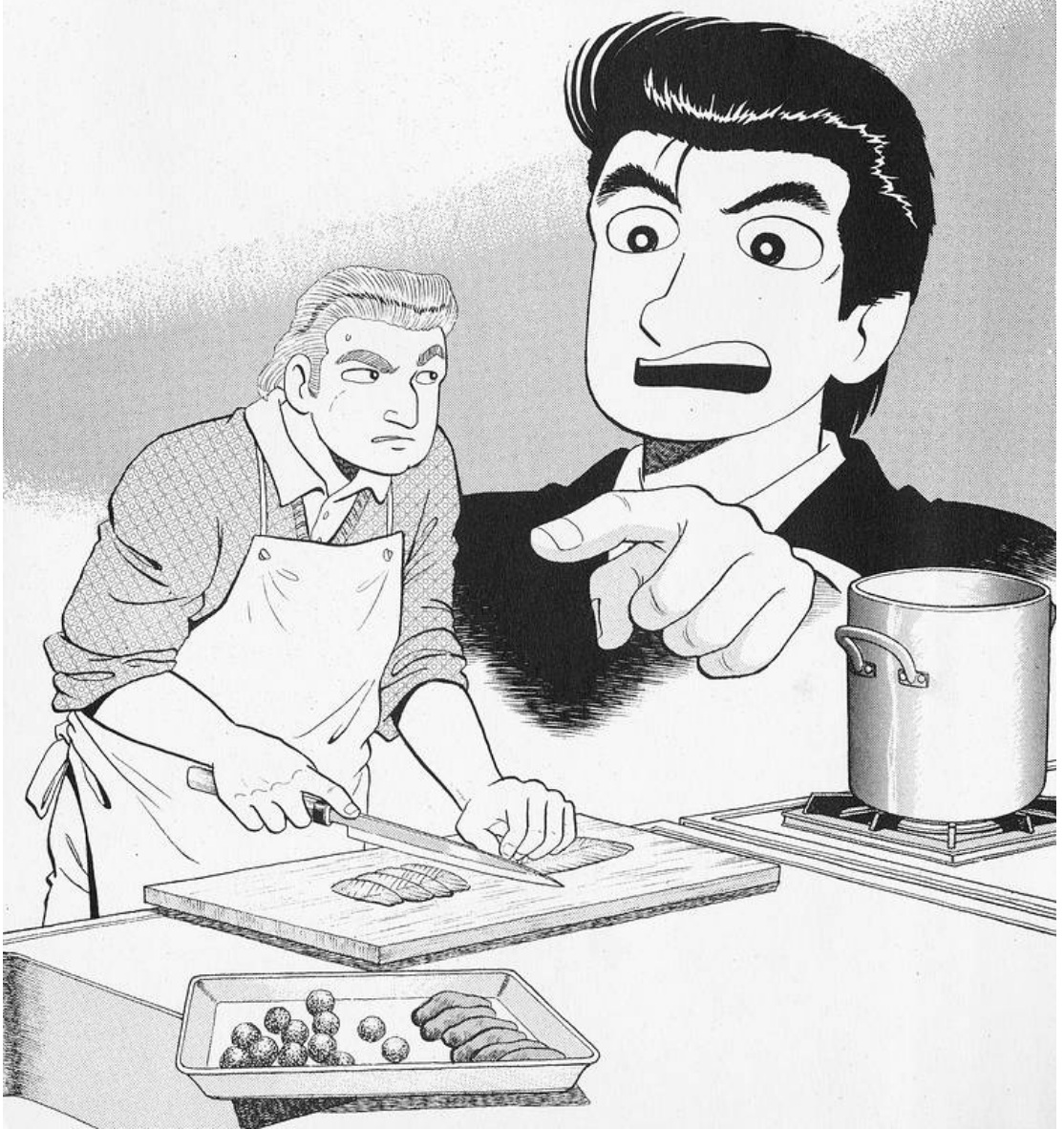
I'M FEELING A BIT SHY ABOUT IT, THOUGH...

IS THERE EVEN MORE TO SHARE?
THANKS TO EVERYONE'S KINDNESS, MY STOMACH FEELS LIKE IT'S FINALLY BACK ON TRACK!

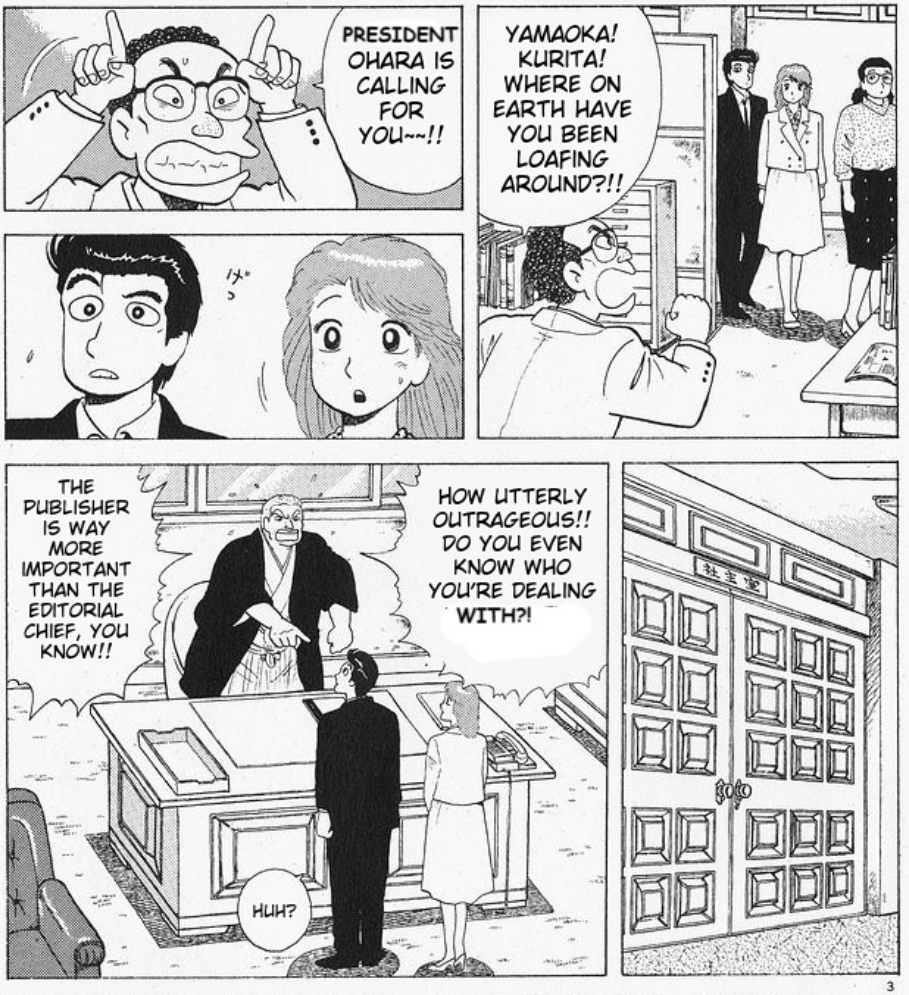
20

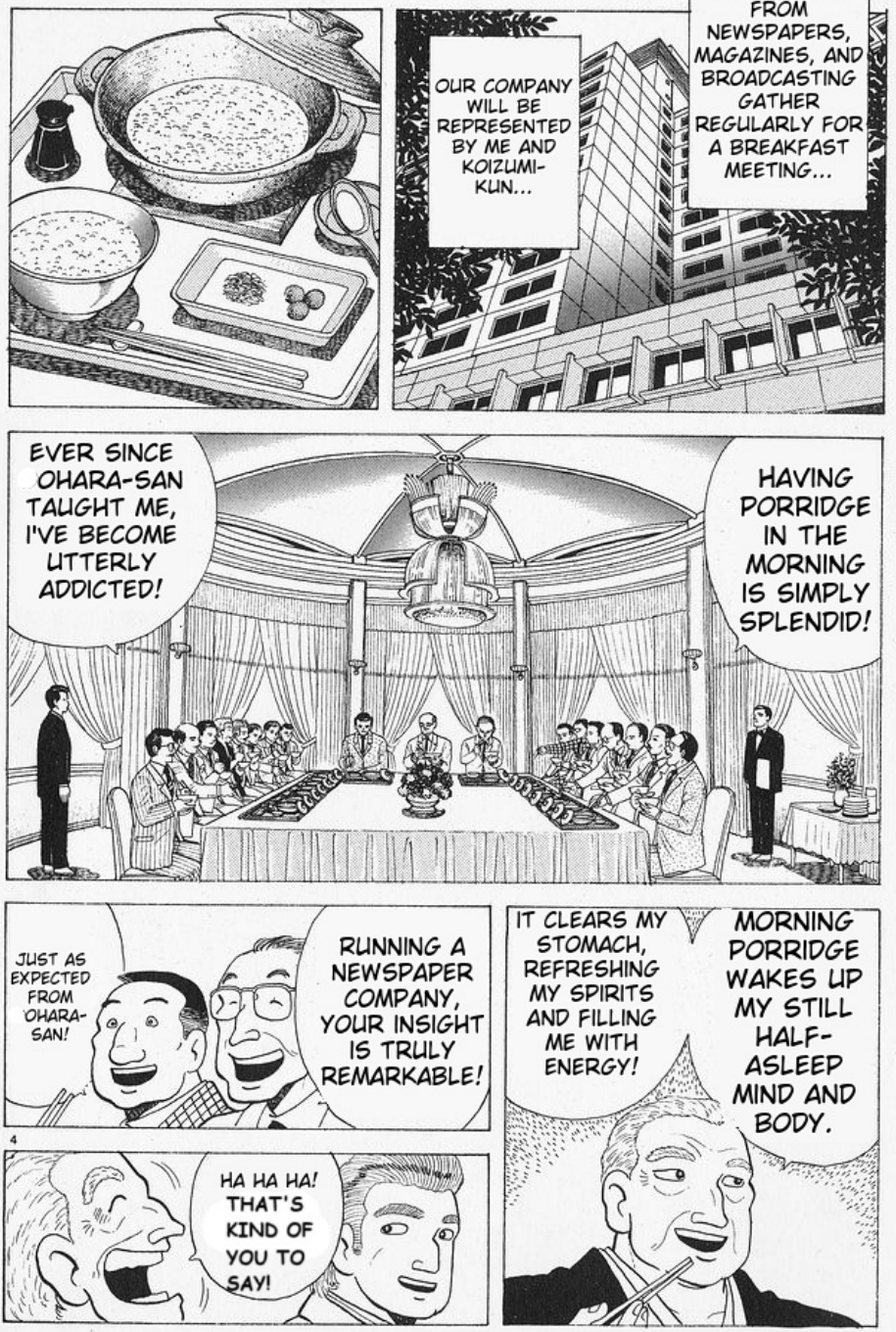
IT'S QUITE THE STRUGGLE, ISN'T IT-?!
GAINING WEIGHT WITH FESTIVE FEASTS AND PORRIDGE ALIKE...
BUT AT THIS RATE, I'M GOING TO BECOME A COMPLETE MARSHMALLOW -!!

第2話
及第ガユ



OH, LOOK! IT'S DIRECTOR KOIZUMI!
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIM?
HE SEEMS A BIT DOWN AND LACKING ENERGY LATELY.
2
.....
EVEN AFTER I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO SHOW HIM HOW TO MAKE THAT PORRIDGE?!
IS HIS STOMACH STILL NOT FEELING RIGHT?


PRESIDENT OHARA IS CALLING FOR YOU~~!!
YAMAOKA! KURITA! WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN LOAFING AROUND?!!
THE PUBLISHER IS WAY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE EDITORIAL CHIEF, YOU KNOW!!
HOW UTTERLY OUTRAGEOUS!! DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH?!
HUH?
3
UMM... WELL...
EHH...
BUT YOU NEVER TAUGHT ME ANYTHING LIKE YOU DID WITH KOIZUMI!!
I USED TO ABSOLUTELY DESPISE PORRIDGE, BUT THANKS TO YOU, YAMAOKA, I'VE GROWN TO LOVE IT...

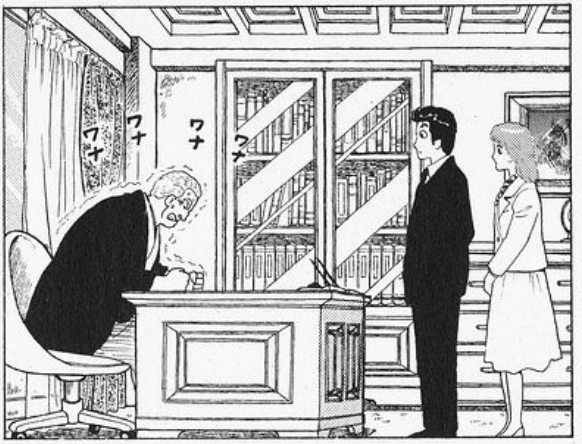

OUR COMPANY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ME AND KOIZUMI-KUN...
EXECUTIVES FROM NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND BROADCASTING GATHER REGULARLY FOR A BREAKFAST MEETING...
EVER SINCE OHARA-SAN TAUGHT ME, I'VE BECOME UTTERLY ADDICTED!
HAVING PORRIDGE IN THE MORNING IS SIMPLY SPLENDID!
JUST AS EXPECTED FROM OHARA-SAN!
RUNNING A NEWSPAPER COMPANY, YOUR INSIGHT IS TRULY REMARKABLE!
4
HA HA HA! THAT'S KIND OF YOU TO SAY!
IT CLEARS MY STOMACH, REFRESHING MY SPIRITS AND FILLING ME WITH ENERGY!
MORNING PORRIDGE WAKES UP MY STILL HALF-ASLEEP MIND AND BODY.

DELICIOUS!

HMM?
MR. KOIZUMI, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
OH?
....
WITH THIS, YOUR RICE BECOMES A TRULY LUSCIOUS DELIGHT!
THIS IS GROUND BEEF SOBORO.
IT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT BALLGAME DEPENDING ON WHAT YOU PAIR IT WITH.
RICE SHOULDN'T JUST BE ENJOYED WITH PICKLED PLUMS AND BONITO FLAKES;
WHEN SPRINKLED OVER RICE AND LEFT FOR A SPELL, THE RICH FLAVOR OF THE KOMBU BROTH SEEPS IN BEAUTIFULLY.
THINLY SLICED KOMBU SIMMERED IN A SWEET SOY SAUCE.
5
IT TRANSFORMS THE TASTE INTO SOMETHING FAR MORE REFINED THAN JUST TOSSING ON SOME BONITO FLAKES.
THIS IS A STYLE INSPIRED BY KYOTO'S FAMED 'HYOTEI,' FEATURING A BONITO BROTH SAUCE.
THE BITTERSWEET NOTES OF CARAMELIZED BURDOCK PAIRED WITH THE UMAMI OF CLAMS CREATE A SYMPHONY OF FLAVOR.
IT'S A BLEND OF DICED CARAMELIZED BURDOCK AND SIMMERED CLAMS.

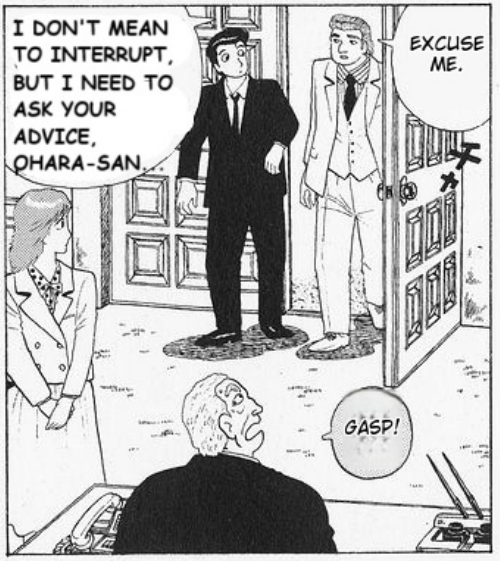
HMM...
IF YOU'D LIKE, EVERYONE, WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY? I'VE PREPARED SOME EXTRA JUST IN CASE.
HOW GENEROUS OF YOU!
HMM, IT SEEMS LIKE OHARA-SAN IS ONE STEP BEHIND YOU!!
JUST AS EXPECTED FROM THE SHARPEST MIND IN THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY, ONLY KOIZUMI COULD PULL THIS OFF!!
OH! THIS IS DELICIOUS!
6
はっはっはっは
HA HA HA!! COME ON, DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC OVER A SIMPLE BOWL OF RICE!!
HA HA HA...
ピク
WELL, THE ONE TRULY DRIVING THE TŌZAI NEWSPAPER IS KOIZUMI-KUN, AFTER ALL...
OH MY, IS OHARA THE BOSS JUST FOR SHOW?!
ピク
ピク

THANKS TO THAT, I'VE ENDED UP BEING JUST A SIDEKICK FOR KOIZUMI-KUN!


ワナ
ワナ
ワナ

まさまさ
ピュー

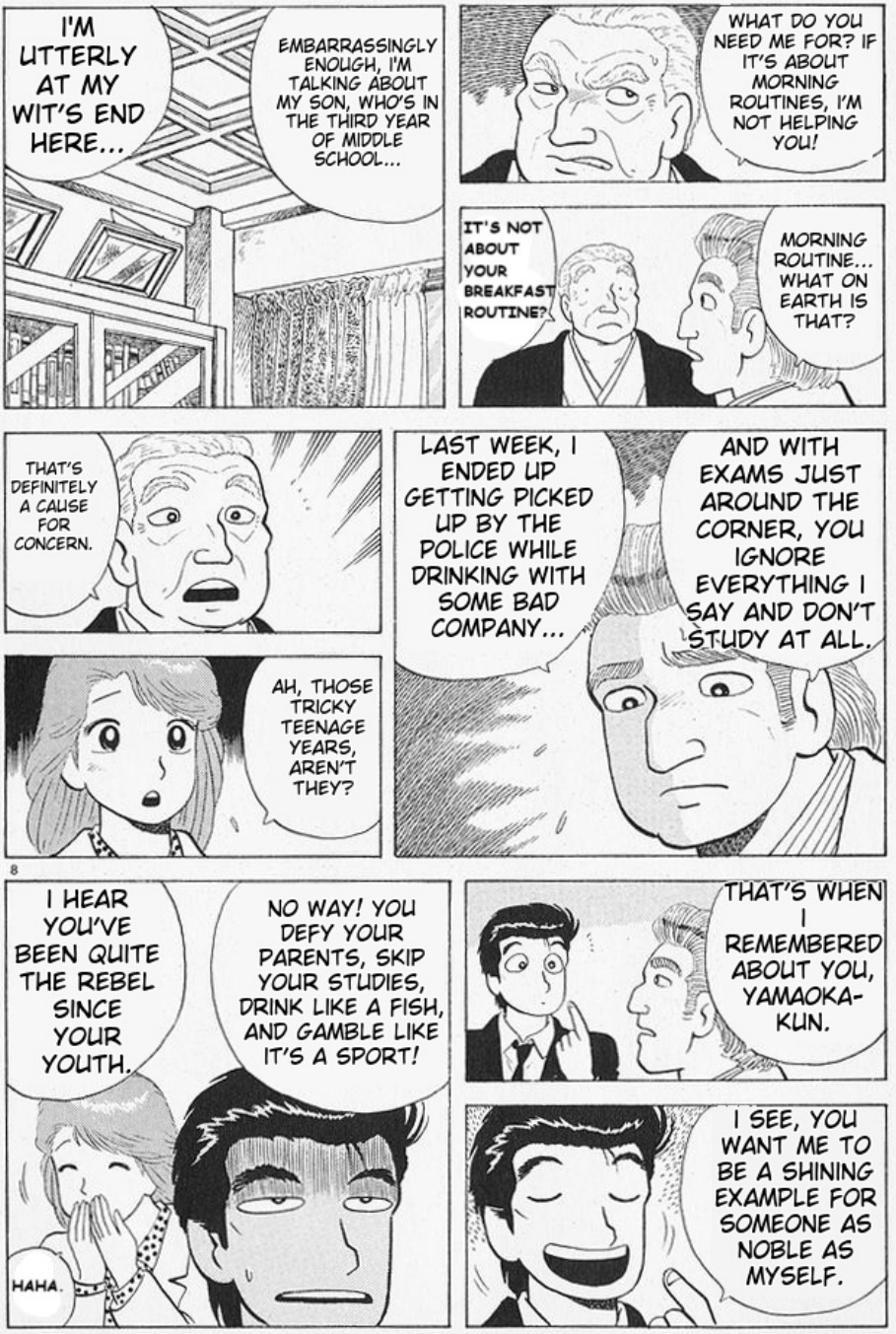
WHY CAN'T YOU SHAKE OFF THAT LITTLE KING OF THE HILL MENTALITY?
TCH, HOW CHILDISH.


I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT, BUT I NEED TO ASK YOUR ADVICE, OHARA-SAN...
EXCUSE ME.
GASP!

PRESIDENT OHARA WILL COME UP WITH A PLAN TO REGAIN POPULARITY AT THE BREAKFAST MEETING!
I GOT IT, I TOTALLY GOT IT!

7

HMM... I SEE, YEAH...
OH HO HO...


I'M UTTERLY AT MY WIT'S END HERE...
EMBARRASSINGLY ENOUGH, I'M TALKING ABOUT MY SON, WHO'S IN THE THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL...
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME FOR? IF IT'S ABOUT MORNING ROUTINES, I'M NOT HELPING YOU!
IT'S NOT ABOUT YOUR BREAKFAST ROUTINE?
MORNING ROUTINE... WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
THAT'S DEFINITELY A CAUSE FOR CONCERN.
AH, THOSE TRICKY TEENAGE YEARS, AREN'T THEY?
LAST WEEK, I ENDED UP GETTING PICKED UP BY THE POLICE WHILE DRINKING WITH SOME BAD COMPANY...
AND WITH EXAMS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, YOU IGNORE EVERYTHING I SAY AND DON'T STUDY AT ALL.
I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN QUITE THE REBEL SINCE YOUR YOUTH.
NO WAY! YOU DEFY YOUR PARENTS, SKIP YOUR STUDIES, DRINK LIKE A FISH, AND GAMBLE LIKE IT'S A SPORT!
HAHA.
THAT'S WHEN I REMEMBERED ABOUT YOU, YAMAOKA-KUN.
I SEE, YOU WANT ME TO BE A SHINING EXAMPLE FOR SOMEONE AS NOBLE AS MYSELF.

8

WOW! I'M REALLY GLAD THERE'S A PURPOSE FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO'S NOT EXACTLY A STAR!
ひっ ひっ ひぃっ
SO, I NEED YOU TO HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY SON'S HEAD.
WELL, THOSE OF US WHO ARE A BIT ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES CAN DEFINITELY RELATE TO EACH OTHER, RIGHT?!
ヨロ…

COFFEE
風月
珈琲

YES, I AM!
YOU'RE KURITA, RIGHT?
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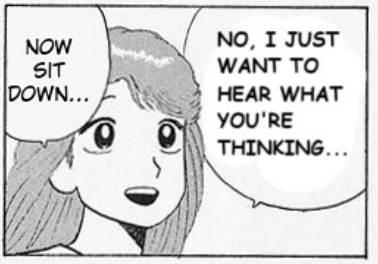
57
GREATEST RACE

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY DAD ASKED OF YOU, BUT -
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR UNNECESSARY LECTURES!


NO, I JUST WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
NOW SIT DOWN...

GOOD FOR YOU, KID...
YOU LANDED A PRETTY HOT DATE, HUH?

HEY THERE!
!

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SAYING SUCH RUDE THINGS.
THIS YOUNG MAN IS MY BOSS' SON!

10

DON'T GET INVOLVED, YOU SHOULDN'T ENGAGE WITH THAT PERSON -HE'S A BAD APPLE.
I THINK THAT GUY'S RUMORED TO BE IN WITH THE YAKUZA...

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

YOUR OLD MAN IS A PRETENTIOUS JERK WHO STRUTS AROUND LIKE HE'S ELITE!
OH... I SEE.

I ABSOLUTELY DESPISE THAT OLD MAN!!

DON'T LUMP ME TOGETHER WITH THAT OLD MAN!
YOU'RE REALLY PUSHING BACK, HUH? YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE YOUR DAD.

THAT'S ENOUGH, KIO-KUN! YOU SHOULDN'T BE HANGING OUT WITH A GUY LIKE THAT!!
I CAN DRINK, AT LEAST!

CAN YOU EVEN DRINK?
WELL SAID! LET'S RAISE A GLASS TO YOUR FIERCE SPIRIT!

11

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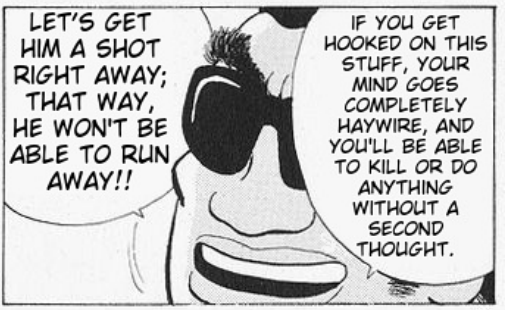
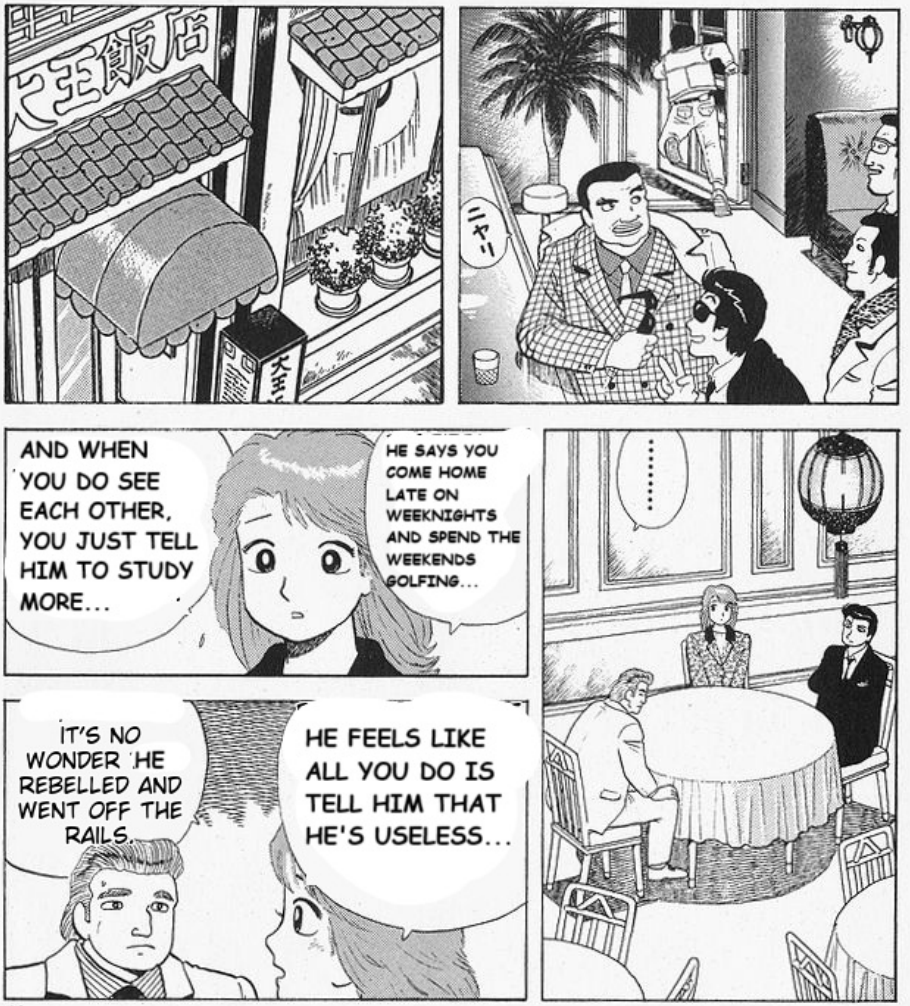
SHUT UP!! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!

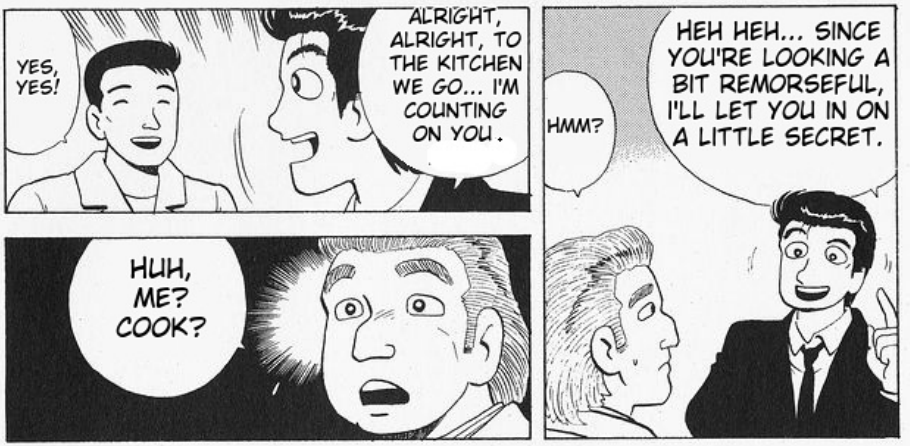
YAMAOKA-SAN, LONG TIME NO SEE.
Y-YAKUZA...
UGH!
UGH, COUGH!
I ENDED UP STABBING SOMEONE IN A FIGHT, SO I DID ABOUT TWO YEARS MYSELF.
I WAS CAUGHT FOR DRUGS AND DID ABOUT THREE YEARS IN THE SLAMMER...
HEY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU GUYS IN A WHILE, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?
YEAH, DRINK UP!
OH, SO IT'S THIS KID, HUH?
TAKE CARE OF THIS GUY, WOULD YA? HE WANTS TO JOIN YOUR CREW.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO DRINK WITH US?!
UH, WELL...
HUH? NO, UH...

DELICIOUS!

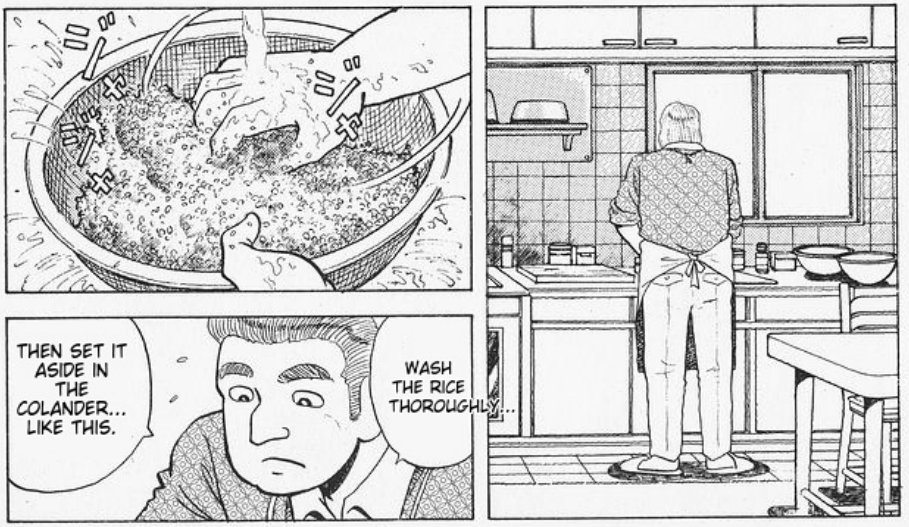


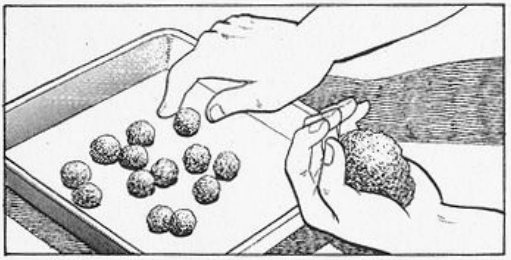
*TL NOTE: 'SHABU' IS THE SLANG TERM FOR METH IN SEVERAL ASIAN COUNTRIES.


AND WHEN YOU DO SEE EACH OTHER, YOU JUST TELL HIM TO STUDY MORE...
HE SAYS YOU COME HOME LATE ON WEEKNIGHTS AND SPEND THE WEEKENDS GOLFING...
IT'S NO WONDER HE REBELLED AND WENT OFF THE RAILS.
HE FEELS LIKE ALL YOU DO IS TELL HIM THAT HE'S USELESS...
14
YOU HURT YOUR OWN CHILD'S HEART AND DON'T EVEN REALIZE IT!!
UGH, BEING A STRAIGHT-A STUDENT IS SUCH A PAIN IN THE NECK!!
Y-YEAH...


YES, YES!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, TO THE KITCHEN WE GO... I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
HUH, ME? COOK?
HMM?
HEH HEH... SINCE YOU'RE LOOKING A BIT REMORSEFUL, I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET.

15


THEN SET IT ASIDE IN THE COLANDER... LIKE THIS.
WASH THE RICE THOROUGHLY...



NOW, FOR THE PREP WORK...
SEASONING THE GROUND PORK WITH GINGER, SALT, AND PEPPER TO MAKE MEATBALLS...
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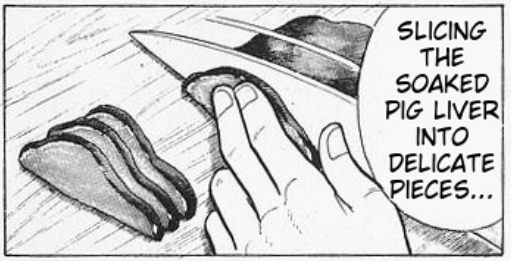

SLICING THE SOAKED PIG LIVER INTO DELICATE PIECES...

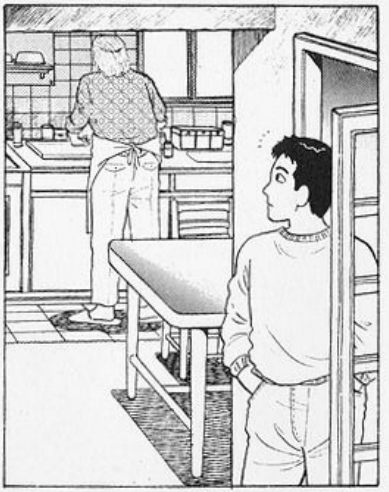
WELL, WELL, THIS IS QUITE THE CHALLENGE...

LET'S WHIP UP SOME FLOUNDER SASHIMI...

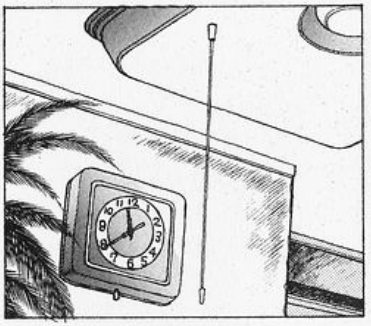
IS DAD NOT GOING GOLFING TODAY?

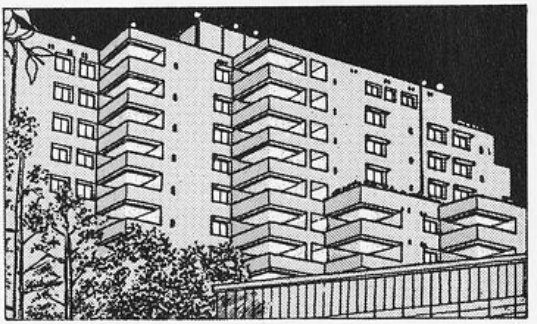
16

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I TASTED YOUR DAD'S HOME COOKING.
AFTER ALL THOSE INGREDIENTS HE BOUGHT, HE'S REALLY COOKING UP A STORM.



DELICIOUS!





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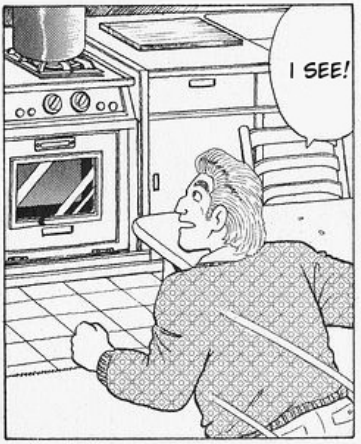
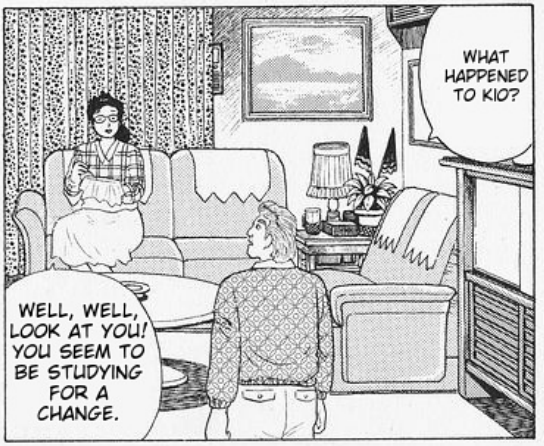
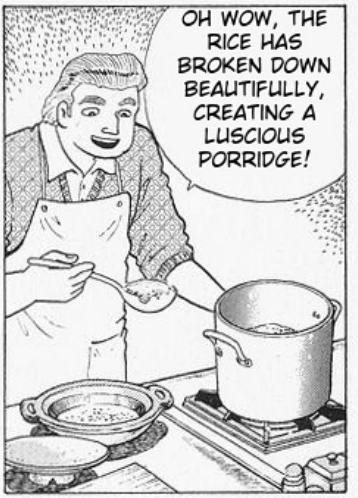


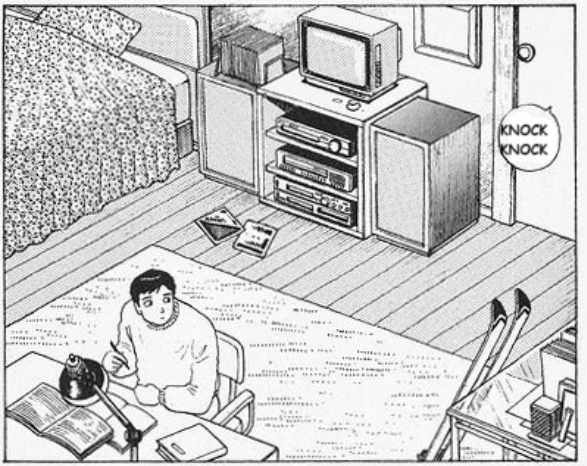


DROP IN THE MEATBALLS AND LET THEM SIMMER AWAY...


OH WOW, THE RICE HAS BROKEN DOWN BEAUTIFULLY, CREATING A LUSCIOUS PORRIDGE!

WHEN THE MEATBALLS ARE COOKED THROUGH, TOSS IN THE LIVER...
AND VOILÀ, IT'S READY TO GO...

I'VE BROUGHT YOU A MIDNIGHT SNACK!

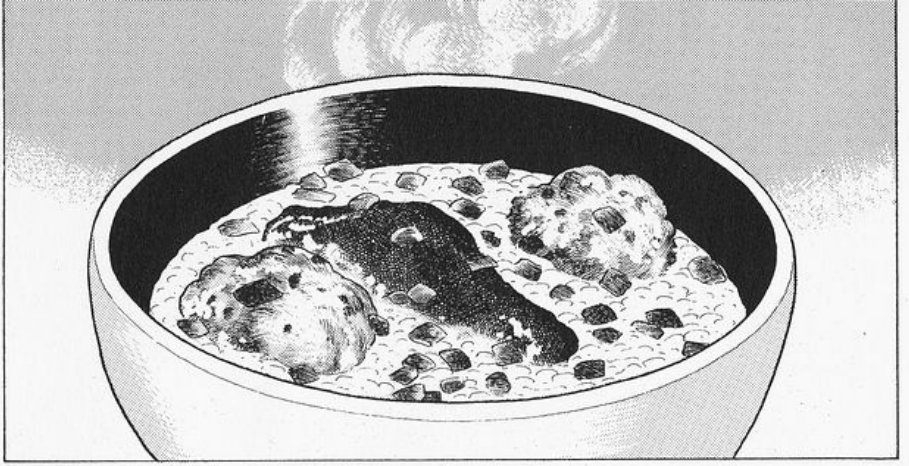

KNOCK KNOCK

18

SPRINKLE IN SOME FINELY CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS...

NOW POUR THAT STEAMING HOT PORRIDGE OVER THE TOP...
PLACE THE SLICED FLOUNDER GENTLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOWL...

HUH?!?



THIS IS THE CHINESE-STYLE PORRIDGE, KNOWN AS JIUDAI CONGEE.

JIUDAI CONGEE?!

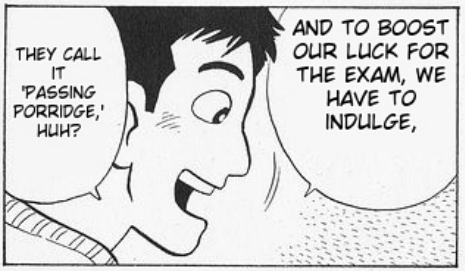
WOW!! SO THIS IS WHAT TOOK ALL DAY TO PREPARE?!

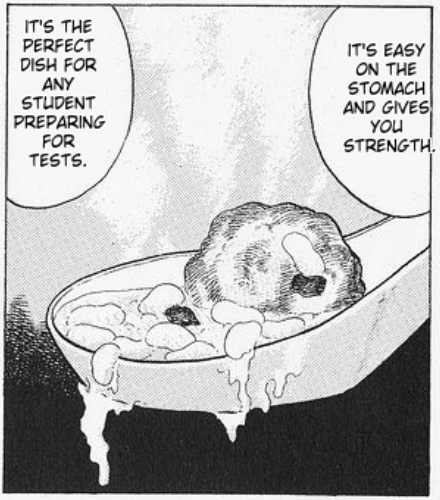
COME ON, GIVE IT A TRY! IT'S PACKED WITH NUTRITION, THANKS TO THE MEATBALLS AND LIVER!

BUT LET ME TELL YOU, THIS EXAM WAS HORRENDOUSLY DIFFICULT, AND STUDENTS STUDIED LIKE THEIR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT.

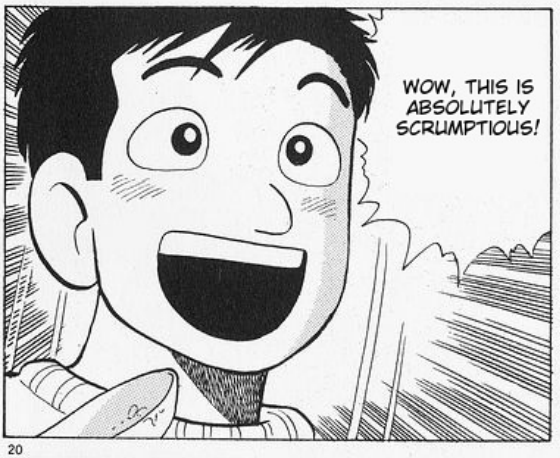
IN CHINA, THERE WAS A RIGOROUS EXAM SYSTEM CALLED THE IMPERIAL EXAMINATION THAT LASTED UNTIL THE QING DYNASTY. IF YOU PASSED AND EARNED THE TITLE OF JINSHI, BECOMING PRIME MINISTER WAS WITHIN REACH,

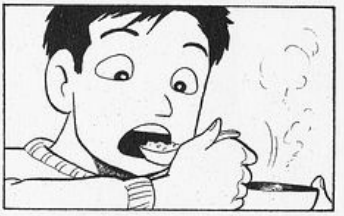
LEGEND HAS IT THAT THIS PORRIDGE WAS WHAT THOSE STUDENTS FEASTED ON.


THEY CALL IT 'PASSING PORRIDGE,' HUH?
AND TO BOOST OUR LUCK FOR THE EXAM, WE HAVE TO INDULGE,


IT'S THE PERFECT DISH FOR ANY STUDENT PREPARING FOR TESTS.
IT'S EASY ON THE STOMACH AND GIVES YOU STRENGTH.

YES, PLEASE INDULGE IN THE FEAST!


WOW, THIS IS ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS!



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20

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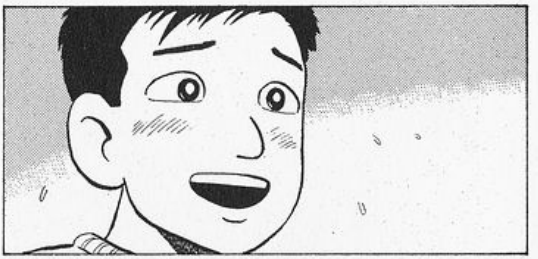
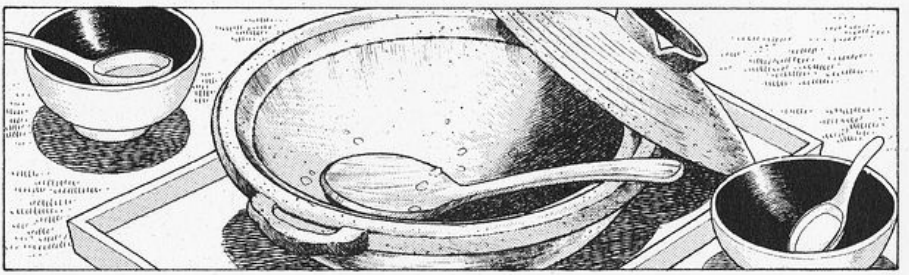
THE SASHIMI IS PERFECTLY TENDER, OH SO DELICIOUS!!

THE MEATBALLS AND LIVER ARE JUST DIVINE!!
THE CHICKEN BROTH IS BURSTING WITH FLAVOR, ISN'T IT?

DAD, I'M GOING TO ACE THIS EXAM FOR SURE!!
HEY, GIVE IT YOUR ALL!!

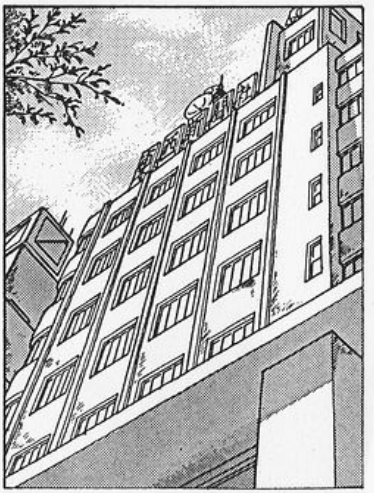
WE NEVER REALLY HAD A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A HEART-TO-HEART, DID WE...?
I GOT SO CAUGHT UP WITH WORK THAT I LOST TRACK...





21

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, YAMAOKA-KUN. MY SON AND I HAVE FINALLY BONDED.
THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR!



I SERVED THE JIUDAI CONGEE AT OUR USUAL BREAKFAST GATHERING, AND IT WAS AN INSTANT HIT!
OH, DID YOU REALLY DO THAT?!
THIS IS BAD NEWS...
WHY...?
YAMAOKA-! JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
WHY DO YOU KEEP TEACHING KOIZUMI DISHES BEFORE ME?!
ドドドドド
22
HUH? DID I DO SOMETHING?
あうう…がるるるるる—。

第3話
新しい企画

THE MAGAZINE'S EDITOR NITA HAS REACHED OUT FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT...

THE EASTERN AND WESTERN GRAPHS ARE OUR COMPANY'S WEEKLY GRAPHIC MAGAZINE.

I WANT YOU TO JOIN AS A COMPANION ON THIS FLAVOR EXPEDITION.

I'M EAGER TO SUPPORT YAMAOKA-KUN AND KURITA-KUN IN THEIR QUEST FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,'

IT'S A PROJECT CALLED 'WORLD FLAVOR JOURNEY.'

THE GOAL IS TO SHOWCASE THE WORLD'S DELICIOUS DELICACIES AND FASCINATING FOOD CULTURES THROUGH VIBRANT GRAPHICS.

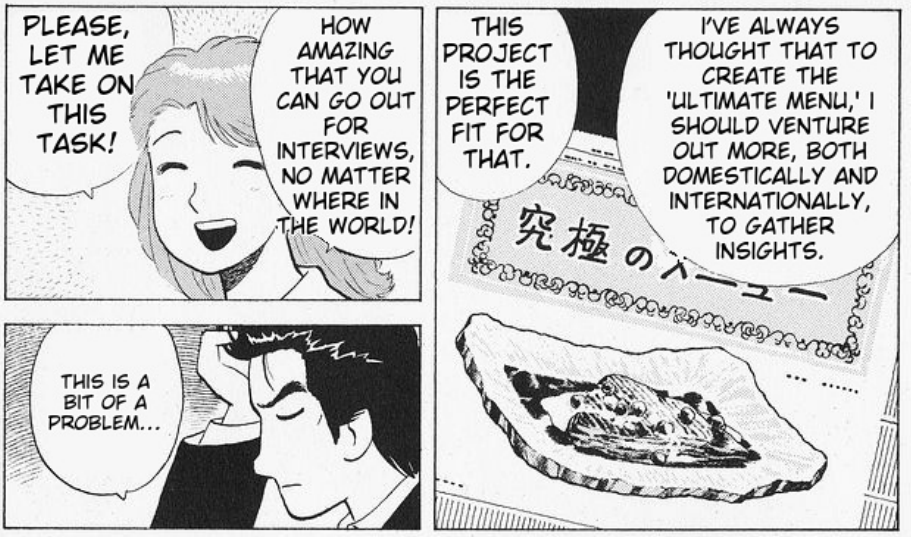
2

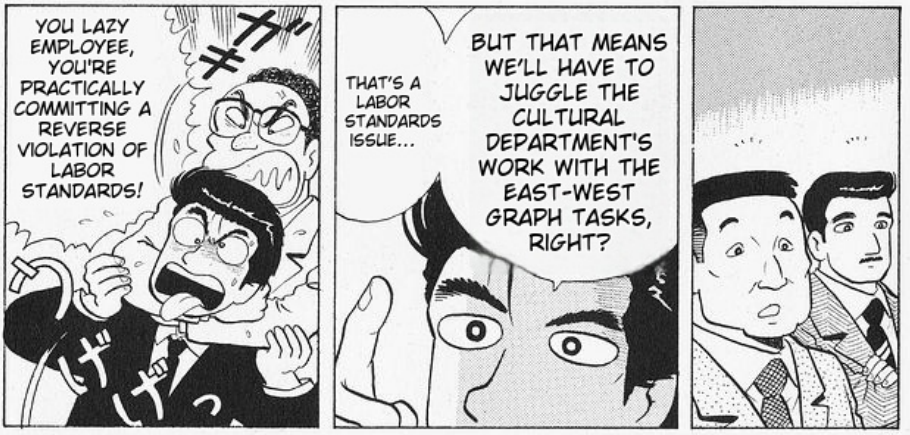
AS A COMPANION FOR THE WORLD FLAVOR JOURNEY?!

I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR MAGAZINE'S COVERAGE.

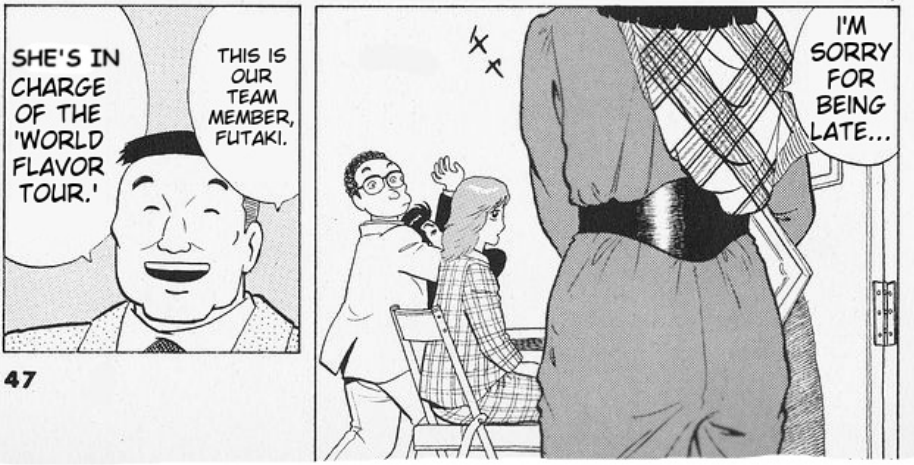
USING THE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM CRAFTING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,'

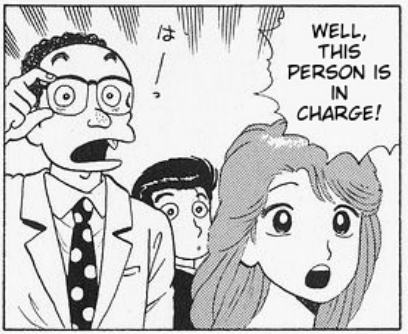
WHILE ALSO FULFILLING EDITOR NITA'S REQUESTS...;


PLEASE, LET ME TAKE ON THIS TASK!
HOW AMAZING THAT YOU CAN GO OUT FOR INTERVIEWS, NO MATTER WHERE IN THE WORLD!
THIS IS A BIT OF A PROBLEM...
THIS PROJECT IS THE PERFECT FIT FOR THAT.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT TO CREATE THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' I SHOULD VENTURE OUT MORE, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, TO GATHER INSIGHTS.
究極のメニュー


YOU LAZY EMPLOYEE, YOU'RE PRACTICALLY COMMITTING A REVERSE VIOLATION OF LABOR STANDARDS!
ガキ
げげっ
THAT'S A LABOR STANDARDS ISSUE...
BUT THAT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO JUGGLE THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S WORK WITH THE EAST-WEST GRAPH TASKS, RIGHT?

3

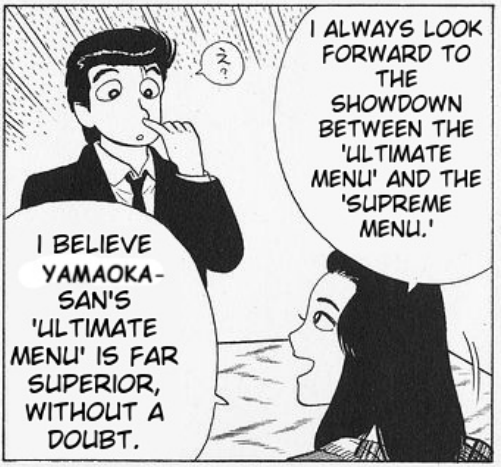

SHE'S IN CHARGE OF THE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR.'
THIS IS OUR TEAM MEMBER, FUTAKI.
I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE...


WELL, THIS PERSON IS IN CHARGE!

I'M MARIKO FUTAKI, NICE TO MEET YOU ALL!

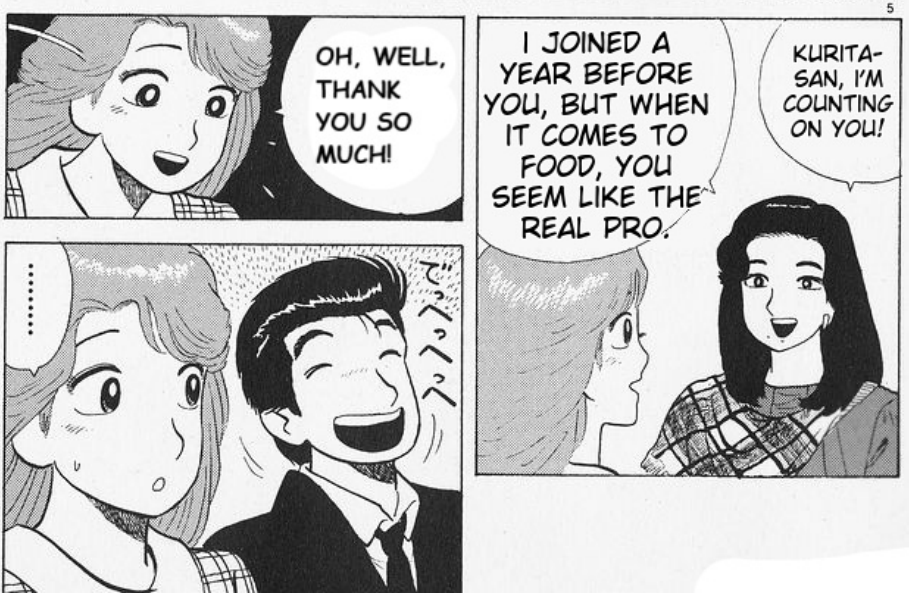
FUTAKI-KUN GRADUATED FROM THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT AT PARIS UNIVERSITY.
HE JOINED US AS A LOCAL HIRE, BUT HE JUST RETURNED TO JAPAN LAST MONTH.

4


I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO THE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU.'
I BELIEVE YAMAOKA-SAN'S 'ULTIMATE MENU' IS FAR SUPERIOR, WITHOUT A DOUBT.

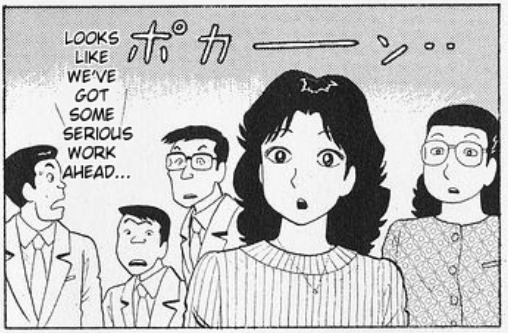
THIS PROJECT WAS ACTUALLY FUTAKI-KUN'S BRAINCHILD.

DELICIOUSNESS 21!



IF WE COMPILE THOSE BY MONTH, IT'LL BE A FANTASTIC GUIDE FOR DECIDING WHERE TO GO ON OUR CULINARY ADVENTURES.
W-WELL, YEAH...

LET'S GATHER UP THE DELICIOUS SEASONAL DELICACIES FROM EACH REGION!
WE'LL GET COOPERATION FROM EACH OFFICE AND BUREAU OF TOZAI SHIMBUN!
文化部

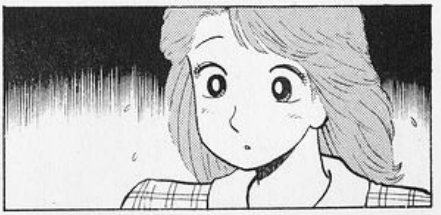

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME SERIOUS WORK AHEAD...
ポカーン

ALRIGHT, LET'S KICK THINGS OFF WITH THE SYDNEY BRANCH!

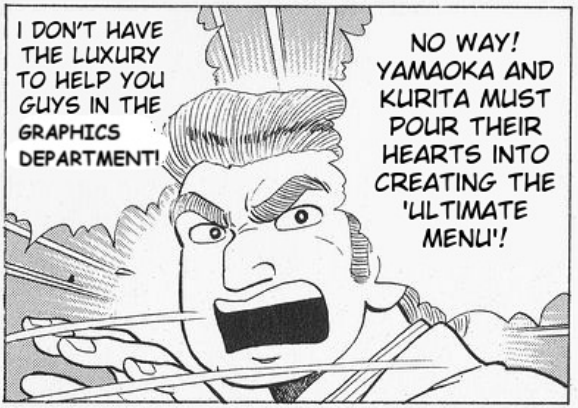
6

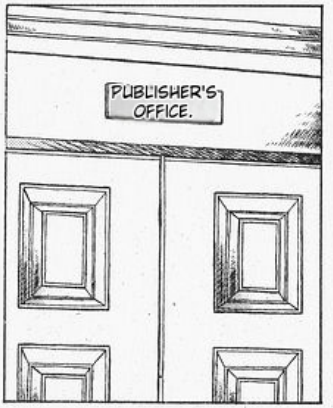
ABOUT THAT MATTER, DIRECTOR KOIZUMI IS HAVING A BIT OF A TIFF WITH THE EAST-WEST GRAPH.
YAMAOKA, KURITA, COULD YOU COME OVER HERE FOR A SEC?

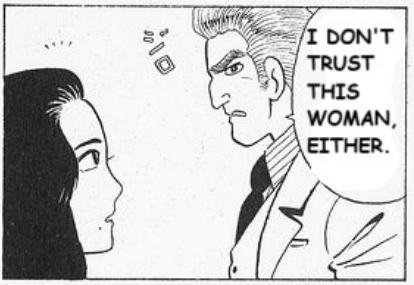
WHAT HAS GOTTEN THAT GUY SO FIRED UP?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

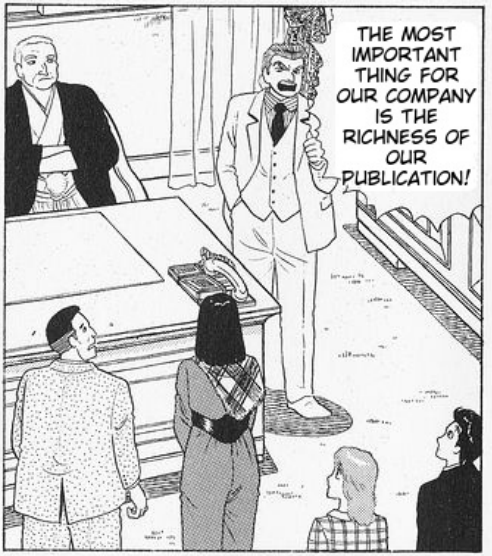


DELICIOUSNESS 21!





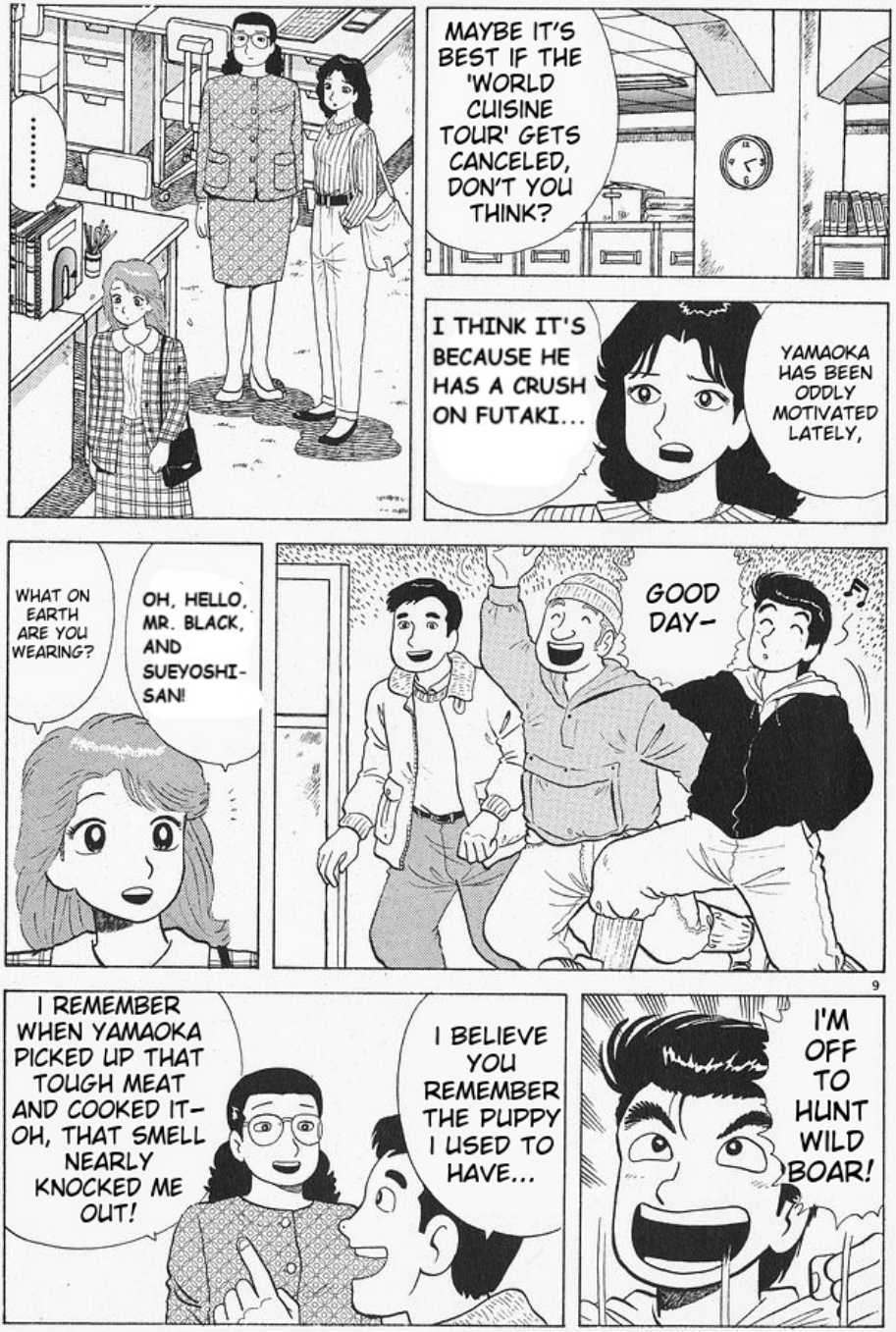




DIRECTOR KOIZUMI! THAT'S JUST TOTALLY ABSURD!
FINE, IF THE TOZAI GRAPH IS SO EAGER TO DO AN ULTIMATE MENU, YOU CAN DO YOUR OWN!!!
OUR PROJECT VISION IS NOT SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
J-JUST GIVE IT A SHOT WITH FUTAKI, YAMAOKA, AND KURITA!
IF IT TURNS OUT GREAT, THE CULTURAL CLUB WILL PITCH IN. BUT IF IT FLOPS... WELL, THAT'S A NO-GO, GOT IT?!
SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU!!!!

8

DELICIOUSNESS 21!

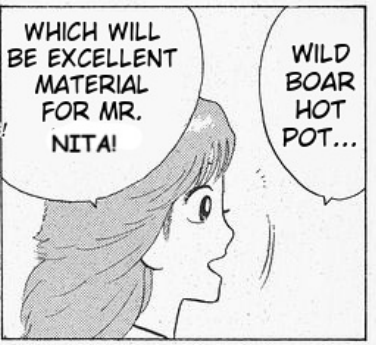


THEY'RE IN FINE FORM...
THE WILD BOAR HOT POT IS WAITING!
OUR TEAM... THE THREE BRAVE HUNTERS OF WILD BOAR!

I'M KEEPING IT WITH A FRIENDLY HUNTER IN TANZAWA.
ACTUALLY, THAT POOCH IS A HUNTING DOG,

THAT DOG IS FINALLY READY TO EMBARK ON TOMORROW'S HUNT.

I'D PREFER FOR MR. NITA TO FAIL, AND FOR THAT PROJECT TO BE SCRAPPED!
STOP WITH THE FOOLISHNESS!


WHICH WILL BE EXCELLENT MATERIAL FOR MR. NITA!
WILD BOAR HOT POT...

THAT'S JUST... TOO NAÏVE.

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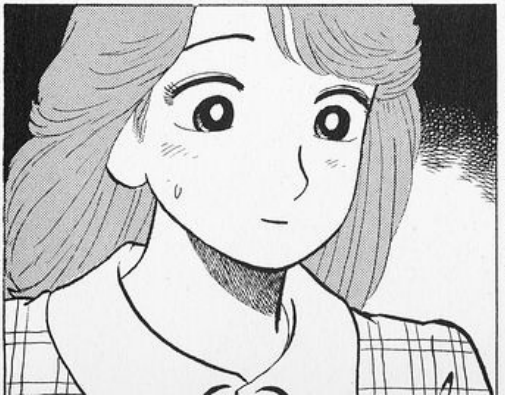

SINCE HE'S FINALLY MOTIVATED, I WANT TO LET HIM DIVE INTO THAT PROJECT...
BUT YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YAMAOKA-SAN SO FIRED UP.

GETTING INVOLVED RIGHT FROM THE HUNTING FOR THE WILD BOAR STEW IS SO IMMERSIVE!
THANKS, KURITA-SAN, FOR SETTING EVERYTHING UP!

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN PULL OFF THE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' WITHOUT YAMAOKA-SAN!

UMM... YES, OF COURSE...

I'M DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS ARTICLE A HUGE SUCCESS!
NO PROBLEM!

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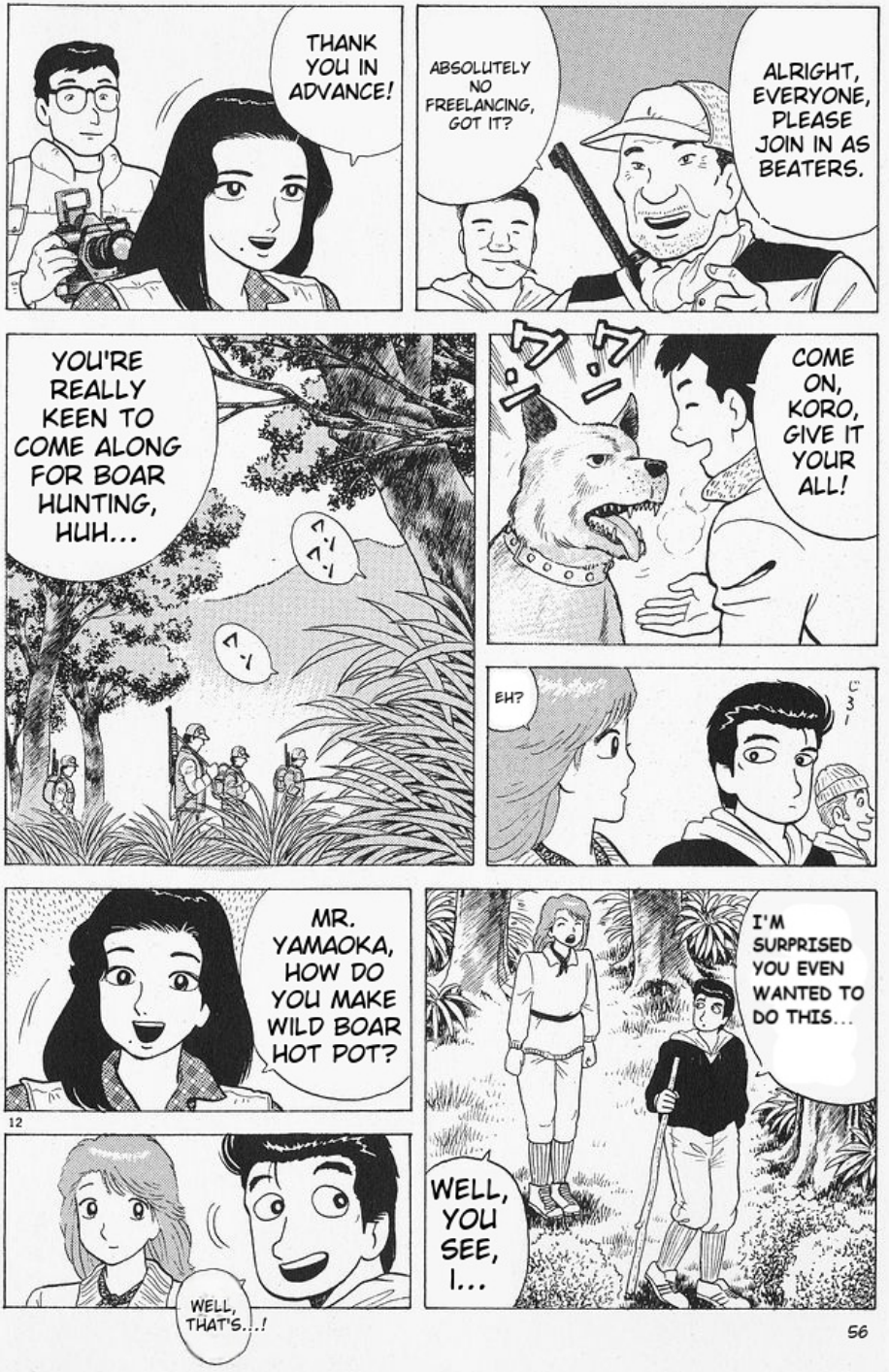
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!
ABSOLUTELY NO FREELANCING, GOT IT?
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE, PLEASE JOIN IN AS BEATERS.
YOU'RE REALLY KEEN TO COME ALONG FOR BOAR HUNTING, HUH...
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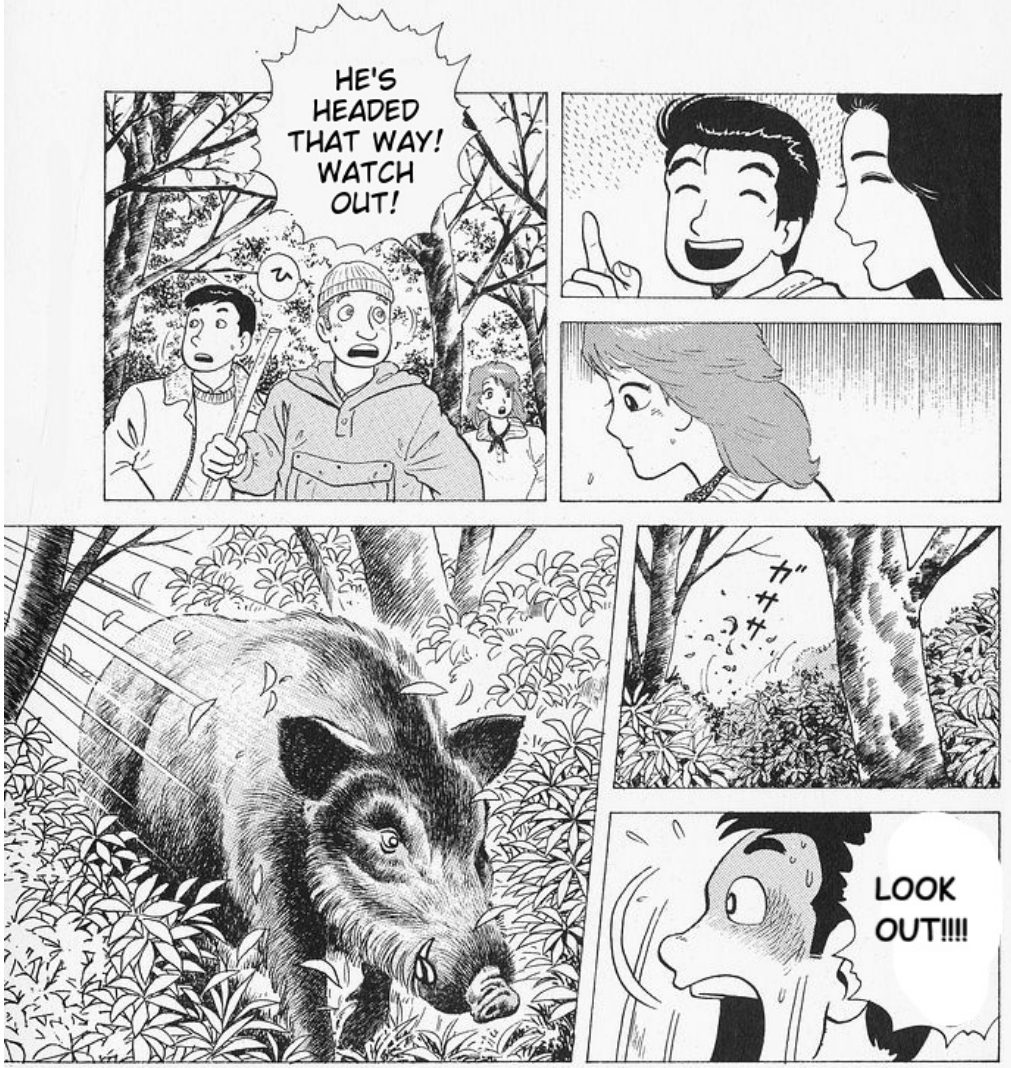
COME ON, KORO, GIVE IT YOUR ALL!
EH?
MR. YAMAOKA, HOW DO YOU MAKE WILD BOAR HOT POT?
12
WELL, THAT'S...!
I'M SURPRISED YOU EVEN WANTED TO DO THIS...
WELL, YOU SEE, I...


HE'S HEADED THAT WAY! WATCH OUT!
ガサガサ
LOOK OUT!!!!

ぎゃあ
GET BACK, IT'S DANGEROUS!

ガブ
AH! KORO!
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, SUEYOSHI! HURRY UP!
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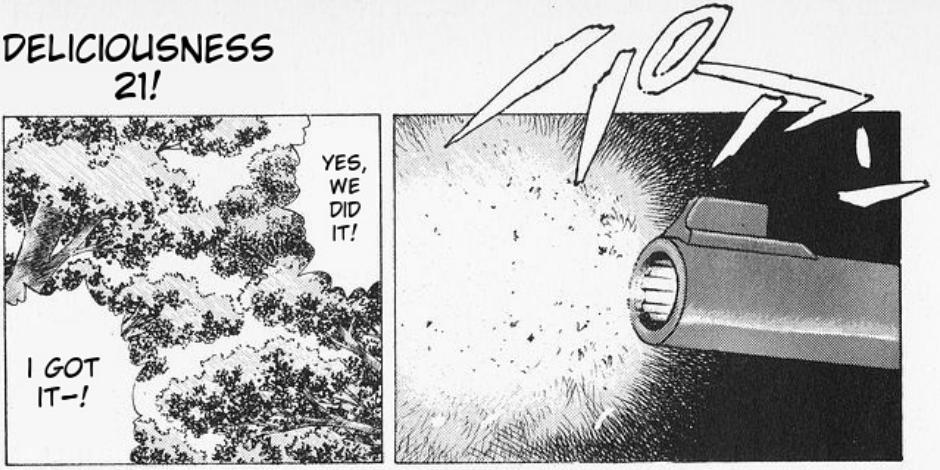
ドサッ
NO!!!!! KORO!!!!

DELICIOUSNESS 21!



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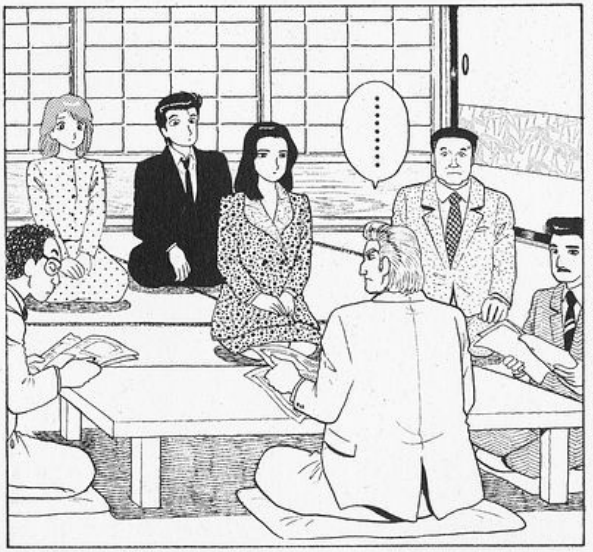
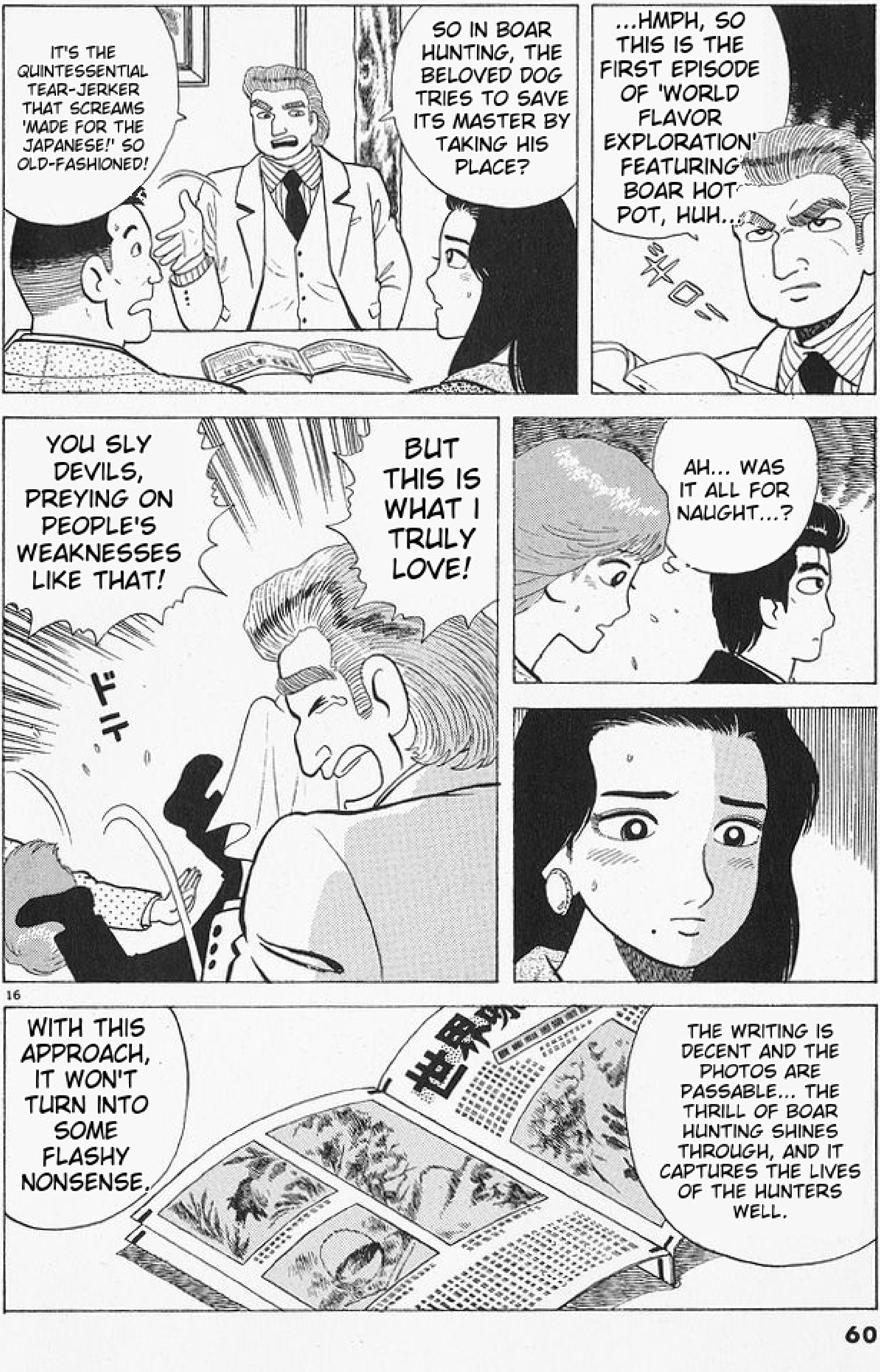
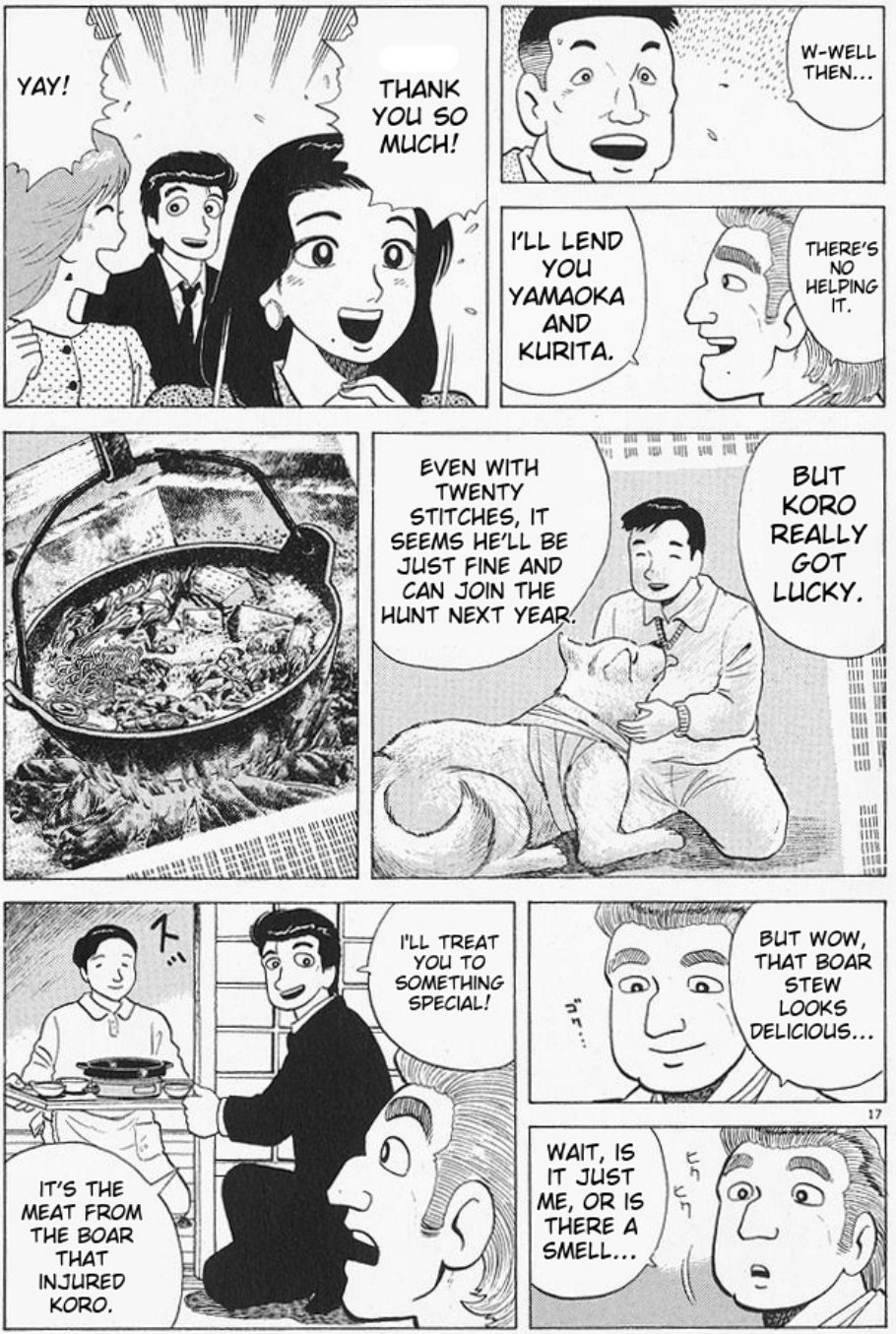
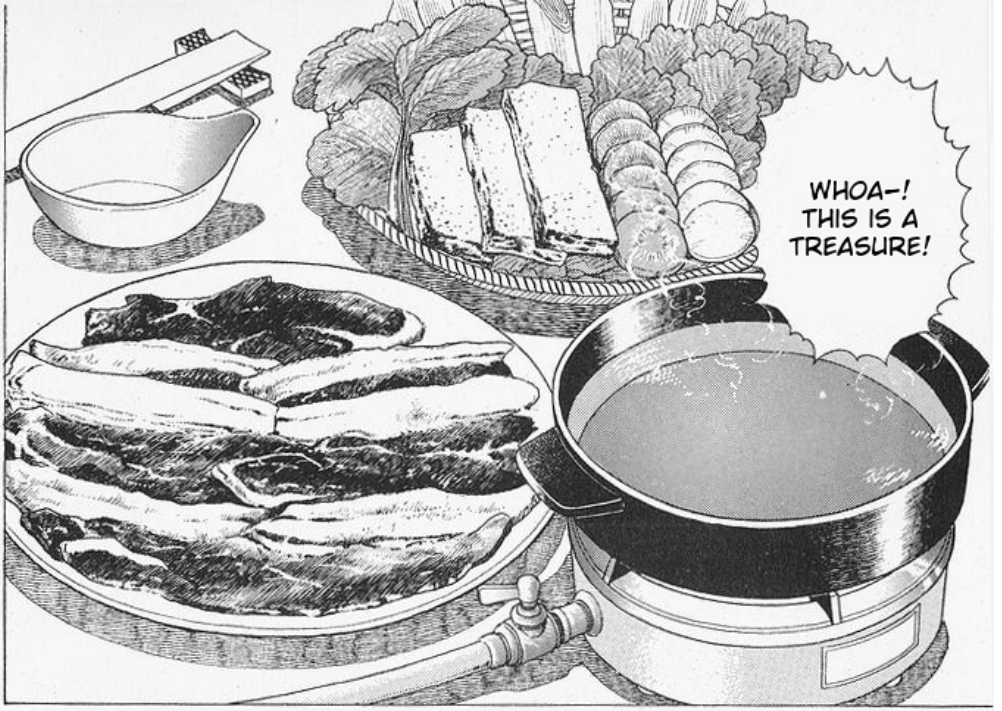




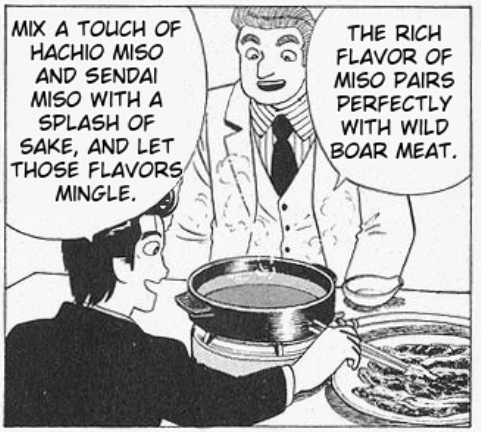
...HMPH, SO THIS IS THE FIRST EPISODE OF 'WORLD FLAVOR EXPLORATION' FEATURING BOAR HOT POT, HUH...
SO IN BOAR HUNTING, THE BELOVED DOG TRIES TO SAVE ITS MASTER BY TAKING HIS PLACE?
IT'S THE QUINTESSENTIAL TEAR-JERKER THAT SCREAMS 'MADE FOR THE JAPANESE!' SO OLD-FASHIONED!
AH... WAS IT ALL FOR NAUGHT...?
YOU SLY DEVILS, PREYING ON PEOPLE'S WEAKNESSES LIKE THAT!
BUT THIS IS WHAT I TRULY LOVE!
16
THE WRITING IS DECENT AND THE PHOTOS ARE PASSABLE... THE THRILL OF BOAR HUNTING SHINES THROUGH, AND IT CAPTURES THE LIVES OF THE HUNTERS WELL.
WITH THIS APPROACH, IT WON'T TURN INTO SOME FLASHY NONSENSE.

DELICIOUSNESS 21!



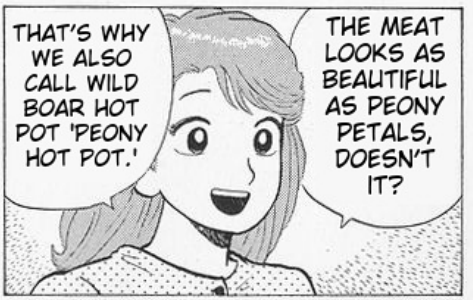

WHOA-! THIS IS A TREASURE!

THIS IS HOW YOU CREATE THE EXQUISITE WARISHITA.
WHEN YOU DISSOLVE THAT IN A BROTH OF KELP AND BONITO, AND ADD A DASH OF SAKE,


MIX A TOUCH OF HACHIO MISO AND SENDAI MISO WITH A SPLASH OF SAKE, AND LET THOSE FLAVORS MINGLE.
THE RICH FLAVOR OF MISO PAIRS PERFECTLY WITH WILD BOAR MEAT.

18

OH... I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANY LONGER...


THAT'S WHY WE ALSO CALL WILD BOAR HOT POT 'PEONY HOT POT.'
THE MEAT LOOKS AS BEAUTIFUL AS PEONY PETALS, DOESN'T IT?

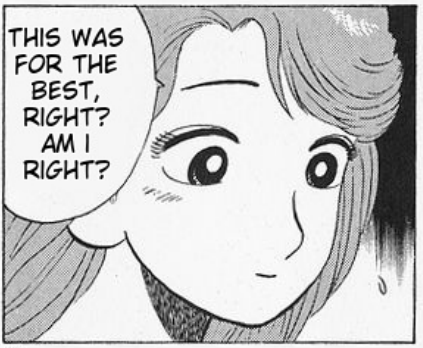
OH WOW!
I THOUGHT WILD BOAR WOULD BE TOUGH, BUT IT'S SURPRISINGLY TENDER!
I'M SAVORING NOTHING BUT THE FINEST-WILD CHESTNUTS FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND FRESH VEGGIES FROM THE FIELDS.
IT'S A FAR CRY FROM THE STENCH OF FACTORY-FARMED PIGS, AND THE FLAVOR IS JUST...
IT'S SO GOOD!
DIRECTOR! THE BOAR MEAT WON'T TOUGHEN UP NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU STEW IT, SO PLEASE EAT SOME VEGGIES TOO!
I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND DAWDLE!
WE'D RUN OUT OF MEAT!
WHAT IF I HAD SAID THIS PROJECT WAS A BUST? THEN THIS BOAR HOT POT WOULD BE...?
KEEP PILING ON THE MEAT, YAMAOKA!

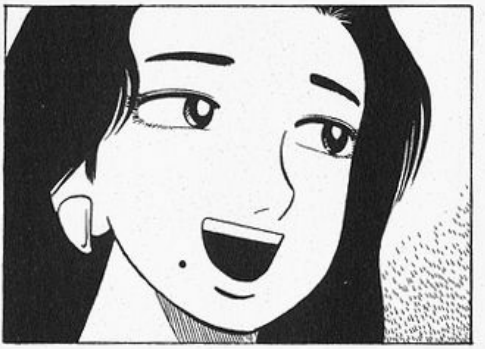
19

NOW, NOW, YOU TWO.
WHAT THE HELL?! I MADE SURE YOU ATE WELL!

OH, WE WOULD'VE STILL HAD IT, YOU JUST WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ANY...

JUST KNOW THERE WON'T BE ANY RAISES THIS SPRING!
YOU SCOUNDREL——!!


THIS WAS FOR THE BEST, RIGHT? AM I RIGHT?



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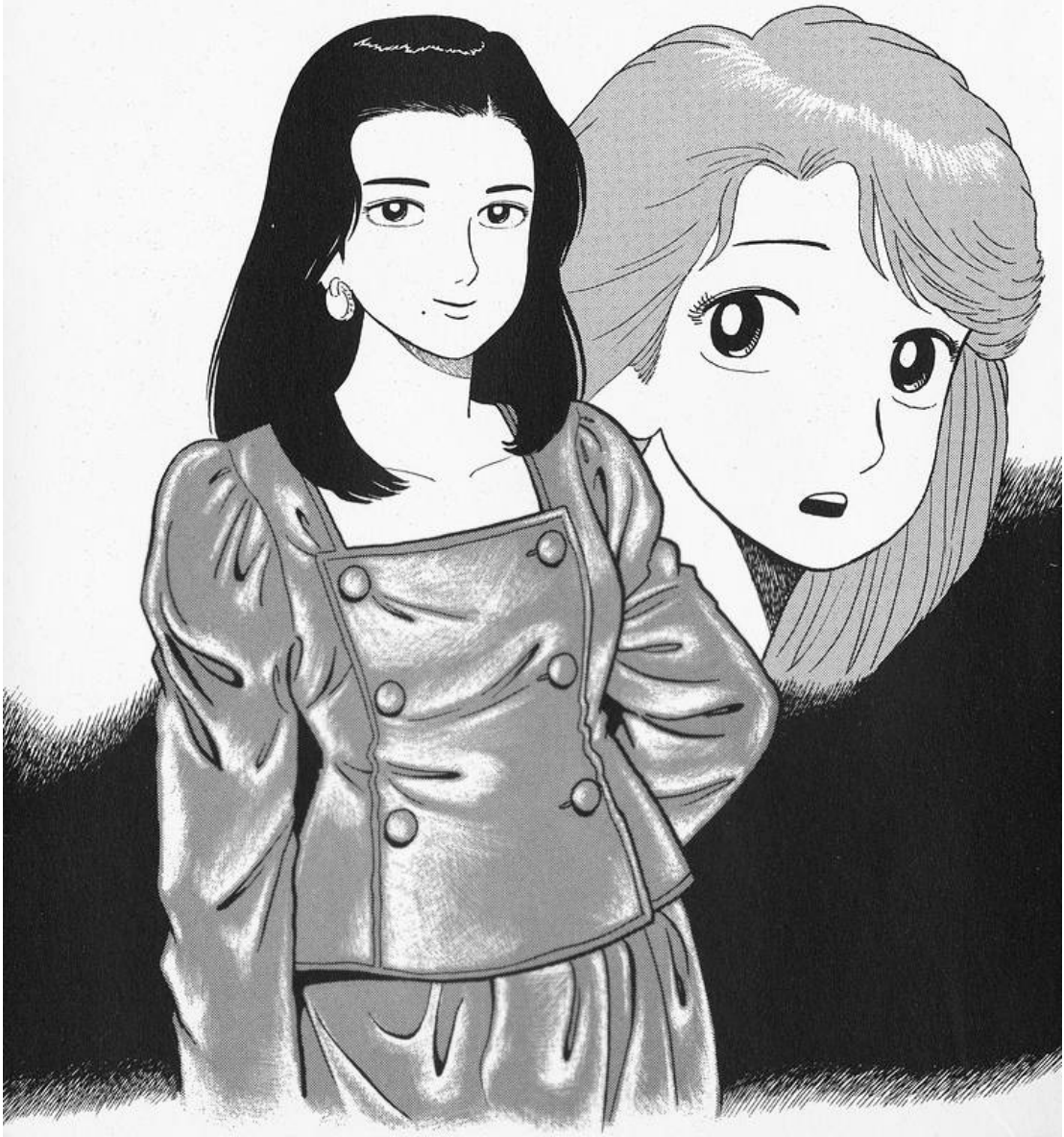
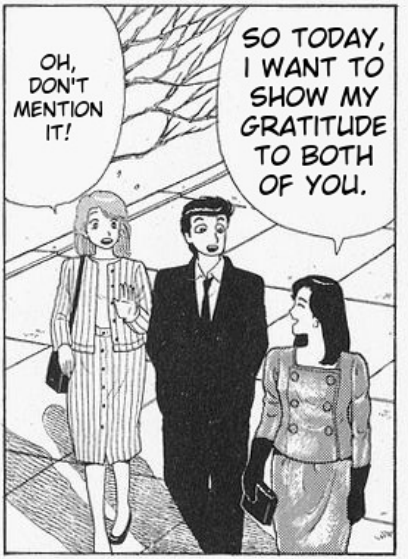


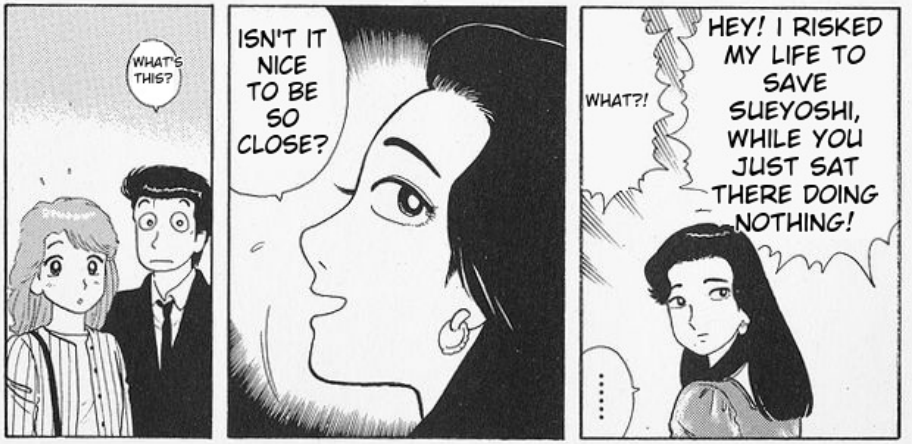
ACE
THE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' PROJECT IS OFF TO A FANTASTIC START, AND I'M JUST SO THRILLED!

SINCE KURITA SEEMS TO BE TOO MODEST, HOW ABOUT I ACCEPT A LITTLE EXTRA THANKS ON HER BEHALF?
HA HA, I'M SO GRATEFUL!


SO TODAY, I WANT TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE TO BOTH OF YOU.
OH, DON'T MENTION IT!

YAMAOKA, YOU WERE JUST RUNNING AROUND LIKE A CHICKEN WITH ITS HEAD CUT OFF!
WELL, HOW RUDE! THE REAL HERO OF THE BOAR HUNT WAS THAT BRAVE LITTLE DOG, RIGHT?!

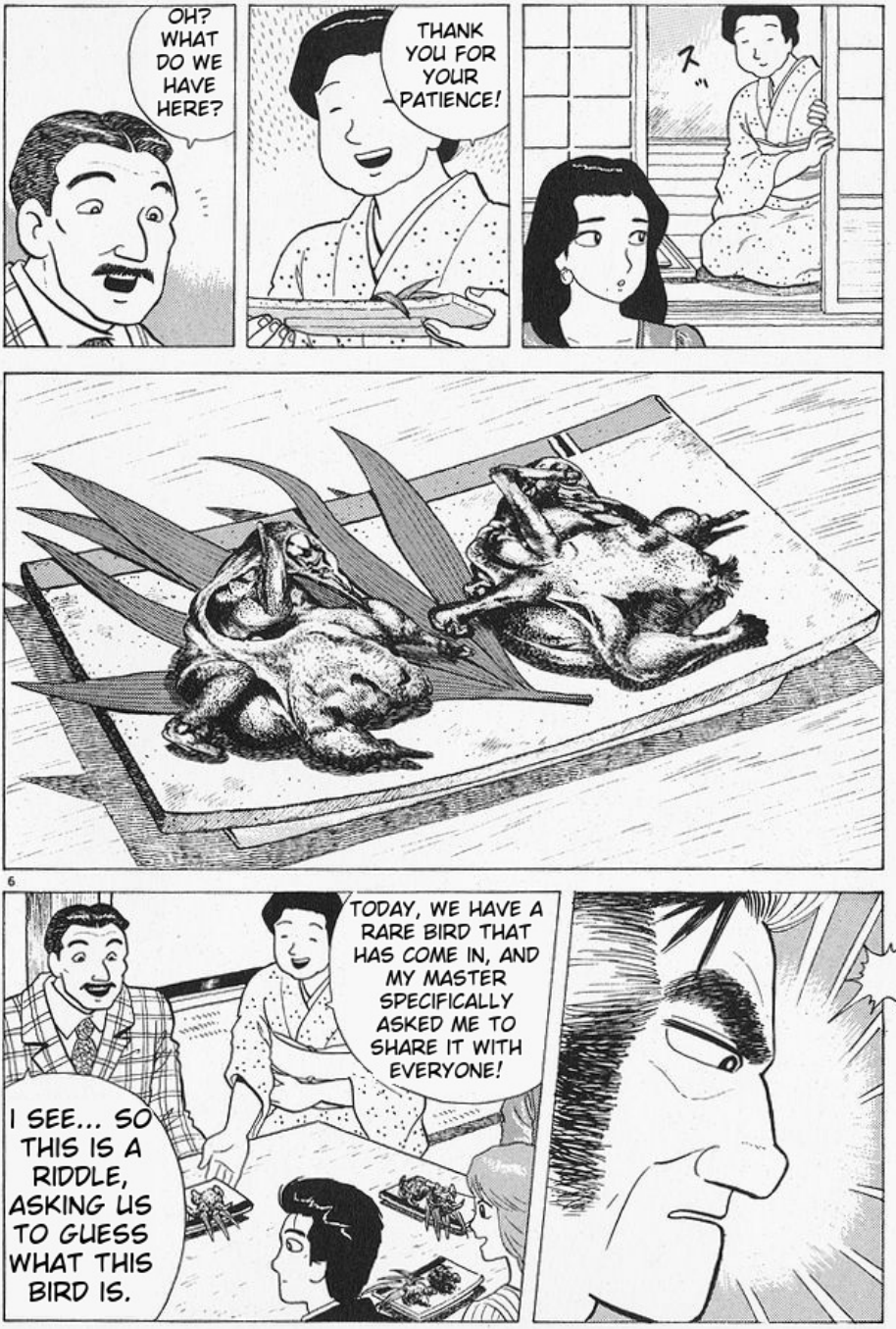
2


WHAT'S THIS?
ISN'T IT NICE TO BE SO CLOSE?
WHAT?!
HEY! I RISKED MY LIFE TO SAVE SUEYOSHI, WHILE YOU JUST SAT THERE DOING NOTHING!
.....

DELICIOUS! VOLUME 21!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU!
SO, IT SEEMS MY DAUGHTER HAS BEEN QUITE TAKEN CARE OF BY YOU,
NOW, PLEASE, DO COME IN!
AH!
OH, I'M TRULY FLATTERED BY YOUR KIND WORDS...
SO, I THOUGHT I'D EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE WHILE ALSO FULFILLING A WISH I'VE HELD FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
TO BE HONEST, I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF KNOWING PROFESSOR KAIBARA FOR QUITE A LONG TIME.
I'VE BEEN UTTERLY FASCINATED BY THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND 'SUPREME MENU', AND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THE CREATOR.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, AS I COME AS A PASSIONATE READER.
I REALIZE IT'S RATHER PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME TO ARRANGE THIS MEETING WITHOUT PERMISSION,

DELICIOUS DISCUSSIONS 2


OH? WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!
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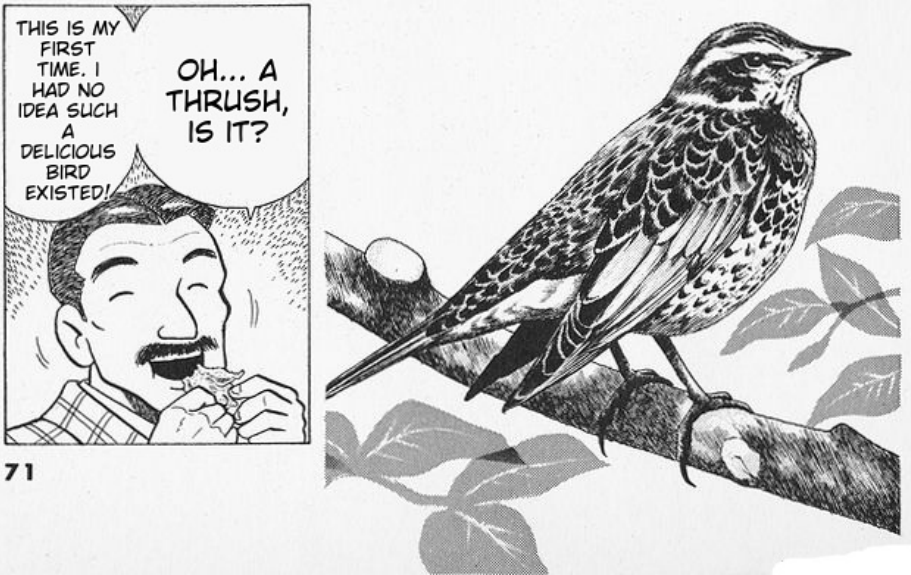
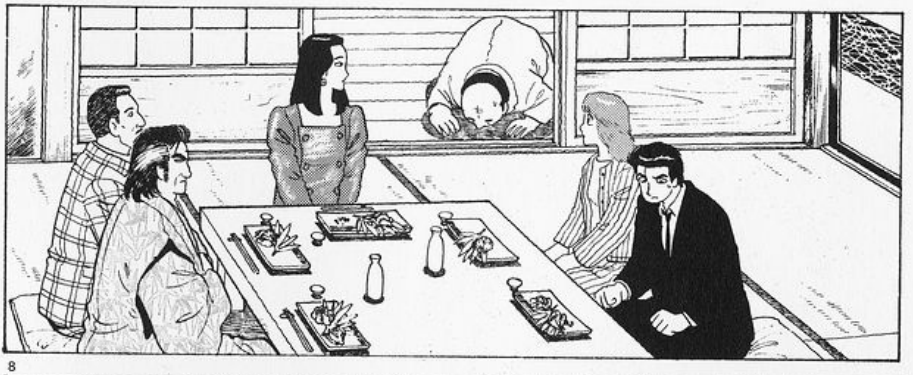
6
TODAY, WE HAVE A RARE BIRD THAT HAS COME IN, AND MY MASTER SPECIFICALLY ASKED ME TO SHARE IT WITH EVERYONE!
I SEE... SO THIS IS A RIDDLE, ASKING US TO GUESS WHAT THIS BIRD IS.

WHAT KIND OF BIRD COULD THIS BE?!
IT'S ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTFUL!
WOW, THIS IS TASTY!
RIGHT? SO GOOD!
THIS IS DEFINITELY A THRUSH.
AH?!
7


THIS IS MY FIRST TIME. I HAD NO IDEA SUCH A DELICIOUS BIRD EXISTED!
OH... A THRUSH, IS IT?

CRIMINALS?
Y-YES, SIR!!

WHAT KIND OF CRIMINALS ARE YOU?!
CALL THE MASTER!!



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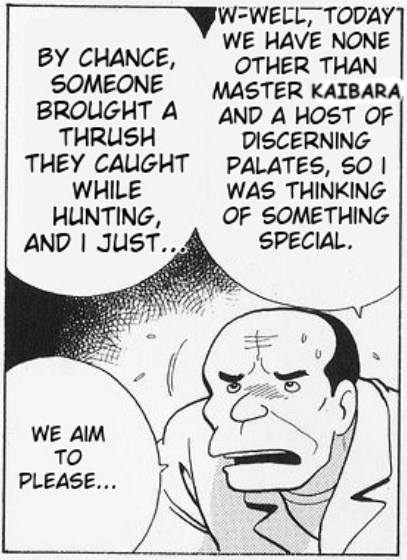
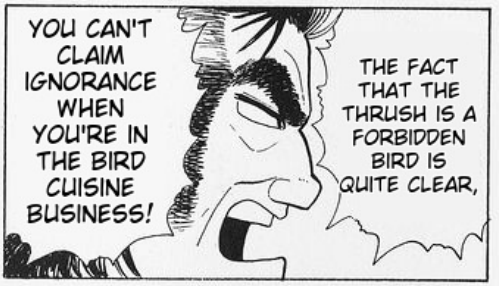
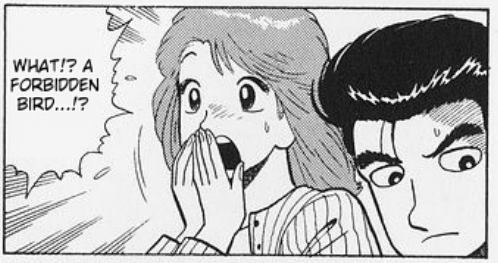

BY CHANCE, SOMEONE BROUGHT A THRUSH THEY CAUGHT WHILE HUNTING, AND I JUST...
W-WELL, TODAY WE HAVE NONE OTHER THAN MASTER KAIBARA AND A HOST OF DISCERNING PALATES, SO I WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING SPECIAL.
WE AIM TO PLEASE...


YOU CAN'T CLAIM IGNORANCE WHEN YOU'RE IN THE BIRD CUISINE BUSINESS!
THE FACT THAT THE THRUSH IS A FORBIDDEN BIRD IS QUITE CLEAR,


WHAT!? A FORBIDDEN BIRD...!?

I'VE HEARD THERE ARE SHOPS THAT HAVE THE AUDACITY TO SERVE BANNED BIRDS TO SUCH DISGRACEFUL CROWDS.
I OFTEN HEAR TALES OF SO-CALLED FOOD CONNOISSEURS, SHALLOW AS THEY ARE, DELIGHTING IN EATING PROTECTED WILD BIRDS LIKE THRUSHES.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME, THE GREAT KAIBARA YUZAN?!
A COINCIDENCE, YOU SAY? DON'T LIE TO ME!!
BUT TO THINK I WOULD BE LUMPED TOGETHER WITH SUCH FOOLS!
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU COULD BE THIS FOOLISH.
I INTEND TO DEAL WITH HIM, BUT HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE...
AS FOR WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS SHOPKEEPER, WE'LL DECIDE THAT LATER...
HUH?

YOU'RE NEGLECTING THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL THINGS, AND THAT'S WHY IT'S COME TO THIS!
RAVING ABOUT HOW THIS IS DELICIOUS AND THAT IS DELICIOUS– WHAT A RIDICULOUS WAY TO BE!
TO THINK YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING UNLESS YOU PICK IT UP AND TRY IT –WHAT A DISGRACEFUL THING TO ADMIT!
YOU COULDN'T TELL JUST BY SIGHT THAT IT WAS A THRUSH?!
IF YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF SHAME LEFT, YOU SHOULD JUST VANISH, YOU BIG FOOL!!
HOW CAN YOU CLAIM TO KNOW WHAT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IS WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PUTTING IN YOUR MOUTH?!
10
TO TOP IT OFF, TEAMING UP WITH A MAN LIKE THAT? IT'S JUST ADDING SHAME UPON SHAME– QUIT THAT PATHETIC PLACE IMMEDIATELY!
HOW COULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU, THE DAUGHTER OF THE FUTAKI FAMILY, STOOP SO LOW AS TO WORK FOR THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER COMPANY?
WHAT UTTER NONSENSE...

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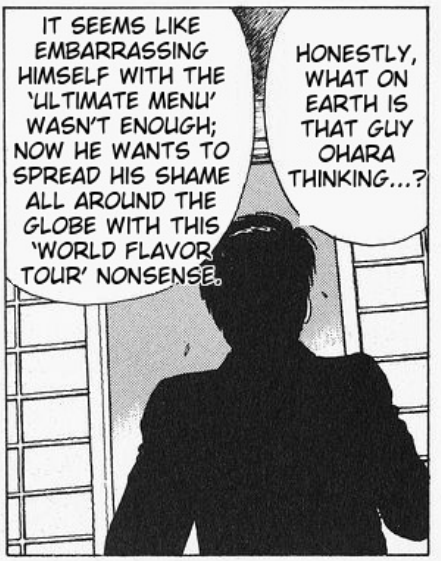
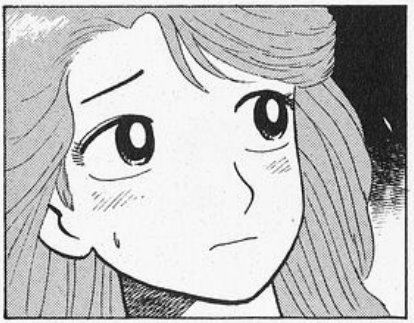

HONESTLY, WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT GUY OHARA THINKING...?
IT SEEMS LIKE EMBARRASSING HIMSELF WITH THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' WASN'T ENOUGH; NOW HE WANTS TO SPREAD HIS SHAME ALL AROUND THE GLOBE WITH THIS 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' NONSENSE.



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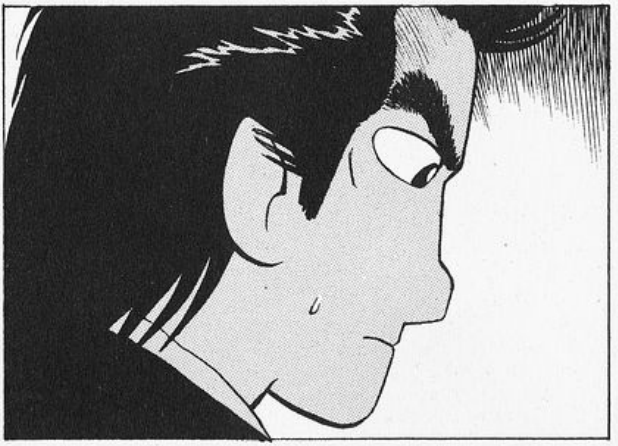

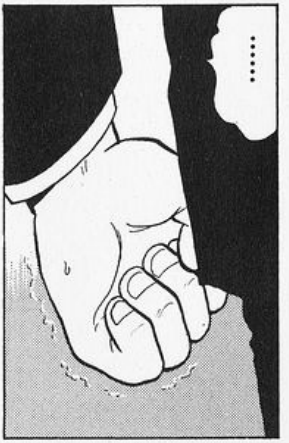
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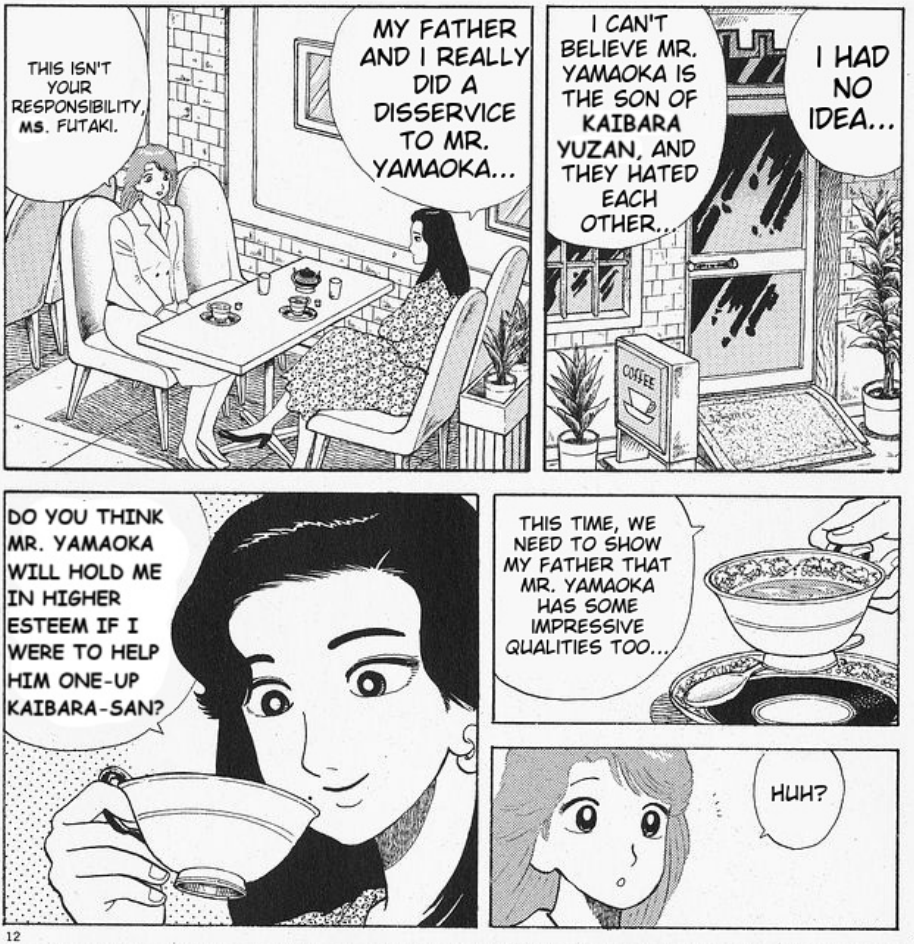
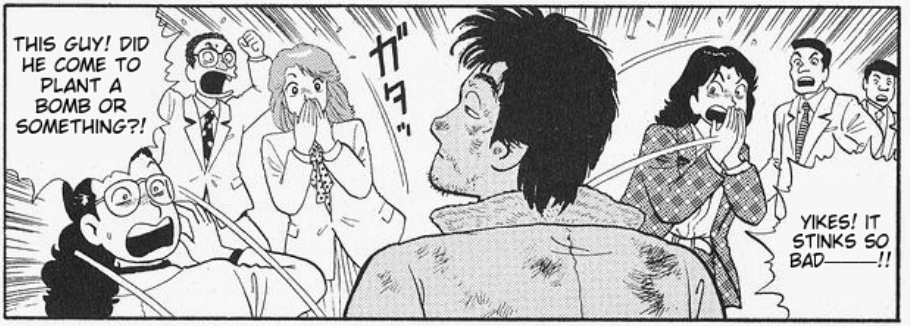

THIS ISN'T YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, MS. FUTAKI.
MY FATHER AND I REALLY DID A DISSERVICE TO MR. YAMAOKA...
I CAN'T BELIEVE MR. YAMAOKA IS THE SON OF KAIBARA YUZAN, AND THEY HATED EACH OTHER...
I HAD NO IDEA...
COFFEE
DO YOU THINK MR. YAMAOKA WILL HOLD ME IN HIGHER ESTEEM IF I WERE TO HELP HIM ONE-UP KAIBARA-SAN?
THIS TIME, WE NEED TO SHOW MY FATHER THAT MR. YAMAOKA HAS SOME IMPRESSIVE QUALITIES TOO...
HUH?
12
I WONDER WHY SHE WANTS TO HELP HIM LIKE THIS SO MUCH?
WOW... I'M TRULY AMAZED...
!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH? OH, IT'S NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL.

DELICIOUS DISCUSSIONS 2


THIS GUY! DID HE COME TO PLANT A BOMB OR SOMETHING?!
ガヲ
YIKES! IT STINKS SO BAD——!!

YAMAOKA-SAN!
WHAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?

IT REEKS——!!
CALL THE POLICE!!
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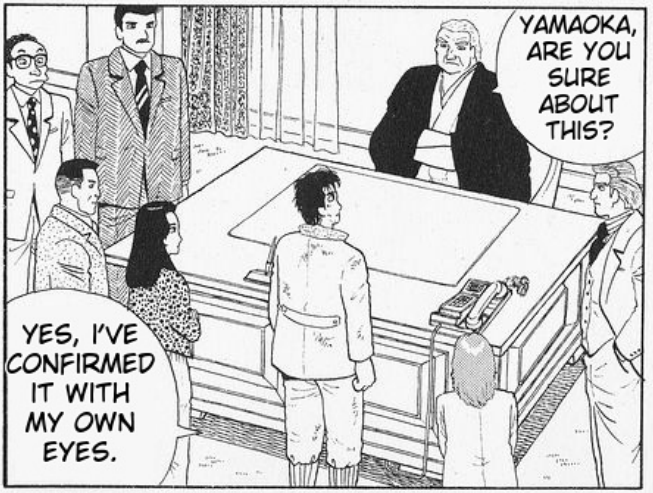
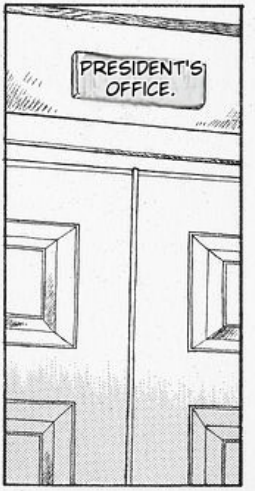
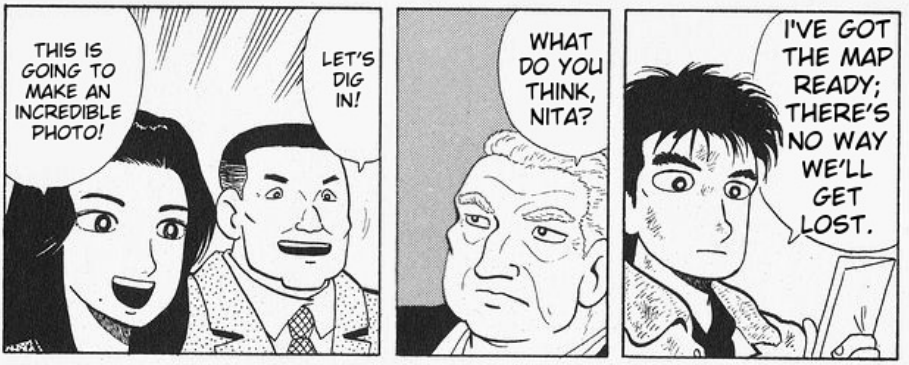
ドスッ
ゴスッ
WHOA, HEY NOW, IT'S ME, YAMAOKA!

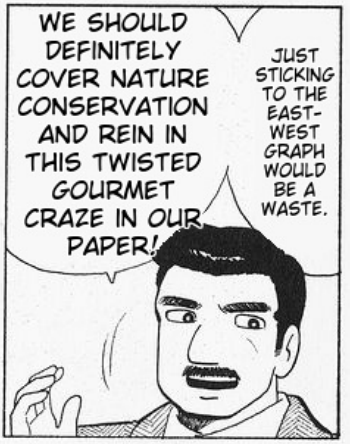
14


YAMAOKA, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YES, I'VE CONFIRMED IT WITH MY OWN EYES.


PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.


THIS IS GOING TO MAKE AN INCREDIBLE PHOTO!
LET'S DIG IN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NITA?
I'VE GOT THE MAP READY; THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL GET LOST.

WE'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE LOCAL POLICE AND SWOOP IN FROM THE SKY WITH A HELICOPTER!
ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS!
OH, LOOKING SHARP! YOU'RE FIRED UP, CHIEF!

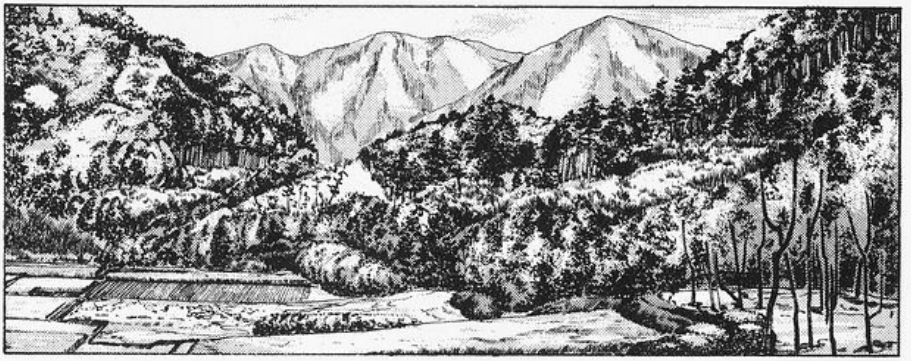

WE SHOULD DEFINITELY COVER NATURE CONSERVATION AND REIN IN THIS TWISTED GOURMET CRAZE IN OUR PAPER!
JUST STICKING TO THE EAST-WEST GRAPH WOULD BE A WASTE.

TOMII, YOU'LL ACCOMPANY YAMAOKA ON THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL AS WELL.

YOU IDIOT, YOU'RE THE ONE GUIDING US THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN PATH.

15

THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING A FILTHY-SMELLING DUDE RIDE WITH US!
THE HELICOPTER IS JUST FOR US.



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I'M EXHAUSTED—!!

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ARE WE THERE YET, YAMAOKA?

GETTING CHEWED OUT BY KAIBARA-SAN MUST'VE BEEN A HUGE BLOW TO YOUR PRIDE!
SERIOUSLY, YAMAOKA, YOU REALLY PUT IN THE EFFORT THIS TIME!

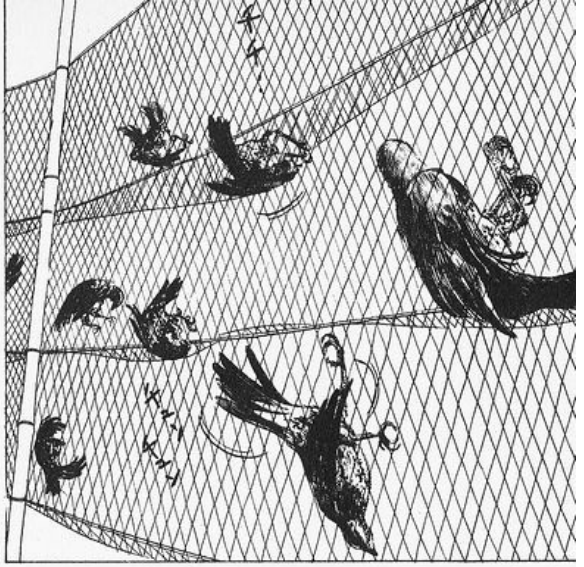
I'M THE ONE TRUDGING UP AND DOWN THESE HILLS AND GUIDING EVERYONE, AFTER ALL!
HMPH, DON'T WHINE ABOUT IT...
ハァ

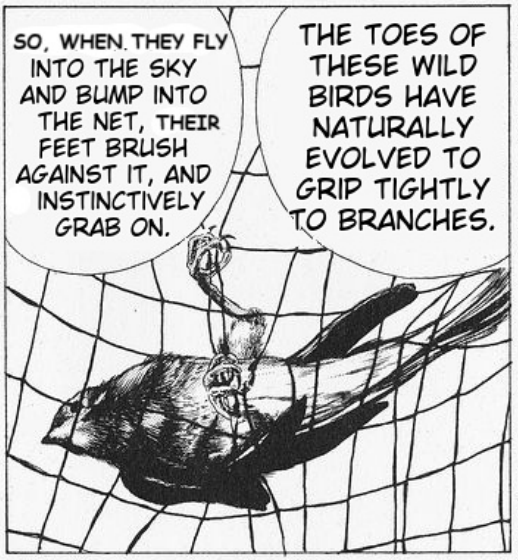
16

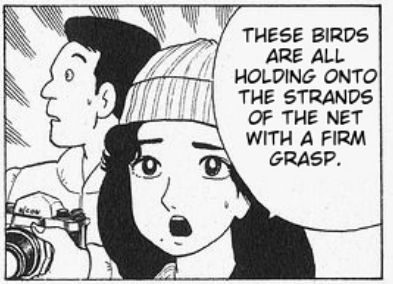
I'M JUST THINKING IT'LL MAKE FOR AN INTERESTING ARTICLE, YOU KNOW!
THAT GUY DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL!

ギュ
THANK YOU, YAMAOKA-SAN, FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME...!
OVER THERE!
HAHA.

YOU SET IT UP IN A SPOT THAT HAPPENS TO BE ON THEIR FLIGHT PATH.
THIS IS A MIST NET, DESIGNED FOR CATCHING WILD BIRDS.




SO, WHEN THEY FLY INTO THE SKY AND BUMP INTO THE NET, THEIR FEET BRUSH AGAINST IT, AND INSTINCTIVELY GRAB ON.
THE TOES OF THESE WILD BIRDS HAVE NATURALLY EVOLVED TO GRIP TIGHTLY TO BRANCHES.


THESE BIRDS ARE ALL HOLDING ONTO THE STRANDS OF THE NET WITH A FIRM GRASP.

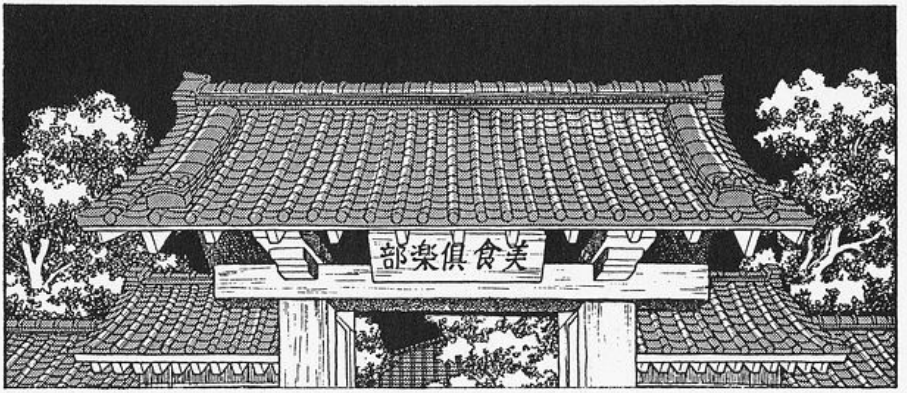
THAT'S TRUE, IT'S NOT THAT THE WINGS GET TANGLED IN THE MESH AND HOLD ONTO THEM.

18

NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY PUSH AT THE NET, IT'S LIKE PUSHING ON A CURTAIN. IT'S ALL GIVE. THAT'S WHY THEY CAN'T TAKE OFF...
WHEN IT'S TIME TO SOAR, THEY NEED TO PUSH OFF THE GROUND OR A BRANCH WITH THEIR FEET, OR THEY CAN'T TAKE OFF.

BUT THEY HAVE WINGS, RIGHT? CAN'T THEY JUST FLY AWAY?

83 *TL NOTE: I WAS WONDERING IF HE'D BEEN AWARE OF HIS DOUBLE STANDARD WITH REGARDS TO WHALING. HE'S EITHER WOEFULLY NAIIVE ABOUT JAPANESE WHALING OR WILLFULLY OBTUSE. AT LEAST HE SEEMS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT HIS VIEWS ARE INCONSISTENT.

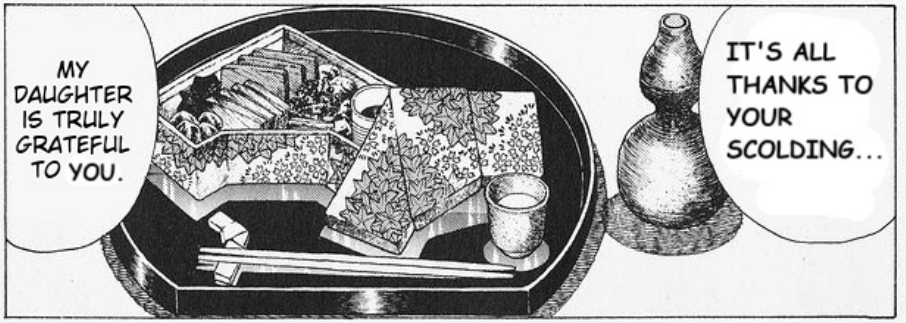

美食倶楽部

I THINK IT'S QUITE WELL DONE, BUT...
HOW ABOUT IT? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ARTICLE ON THRUSH MIST NETTING...?

春風満堂

.....

20


MY DAUGHTER IS TRULY GRATEFUL TO YOU.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR SCOLDING...

BAH...
I BELIEVE YAMAOKA-KUN'S RECENT EFFORTS ARE TRULY COMMENDABLE, BUT...
SINCE THEN, YAMAOKA-KUN HAS THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED THE POACHING SYNDICATE TARGETING THE THRUSHES AND PINPOINTED THEIR HUNTING GROUNDS.
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W-WHAT'S WRONG?!
プシュー
プシュー
脱臭スプレー
21
東西新聞社

WHAT ABOUT MARIKO?
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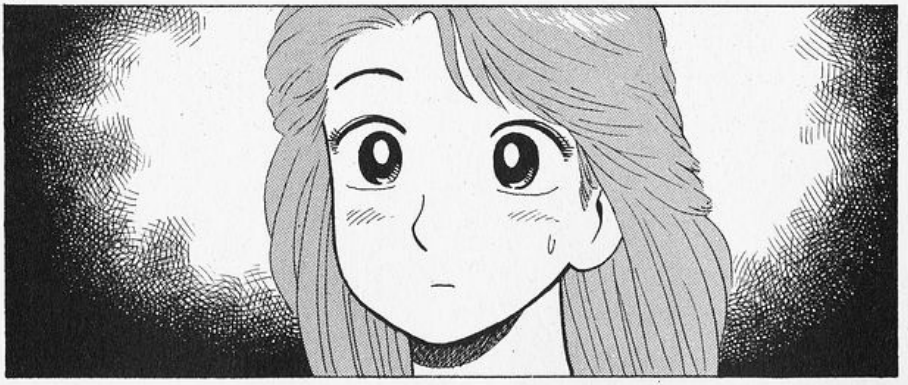
キャー
WHEN YAMAOKA-SAN WALKED IN, TABATA-SAN AND MITANI-SAN SAID HE STILL CARRIED THAT LINGERING ODOR, AND THEY WHIPPED OUT THE DEODORIZING SPRAY...

HEH.

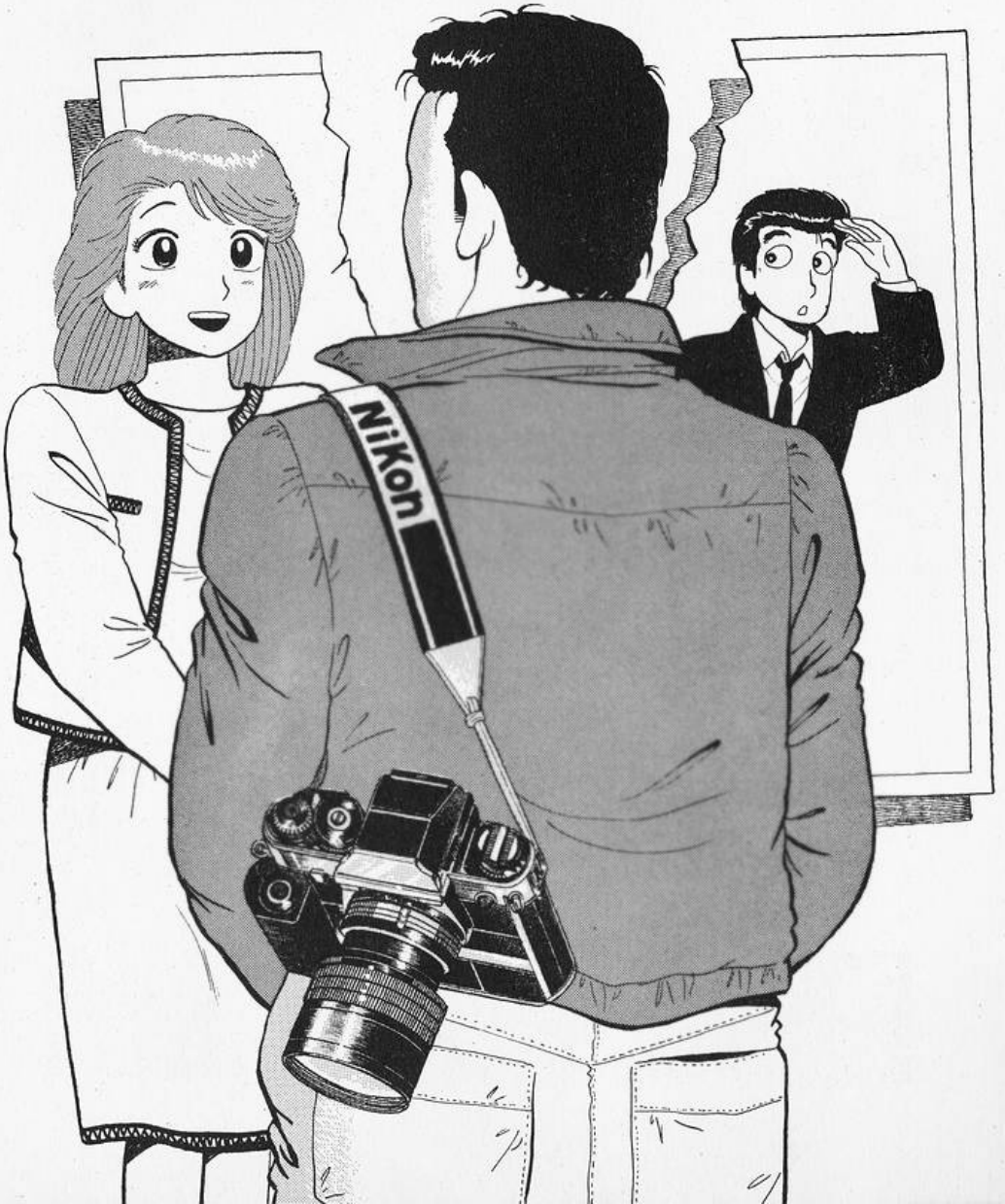
SHE SAW THAT AND DECIDED TO TAKE YAMAOKA-SAN'S SIDE...

HUH?
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS? WHY DIDN'T YOU SIDE WITH HIM?

22



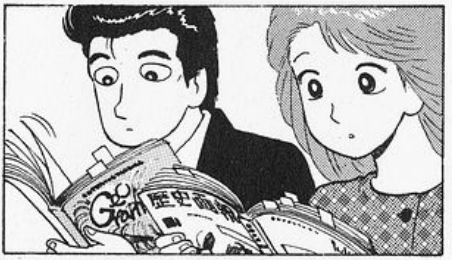
第5話
挑戦精神



東西新聞社
I'VE DONE THE 'FLAVOR TOUR' TWICE NOW, AND FORTUNATELY, THE REVIEWS HAVE BEEN GLOWING...

SO, THIS IS THE PHOTOGRAPHER I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT.

BUT I FEEL LIKE THE PHOTOS JUST DON'T QUITE HIT THE MARK.



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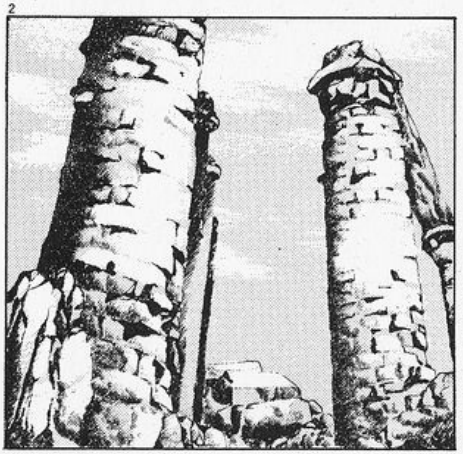
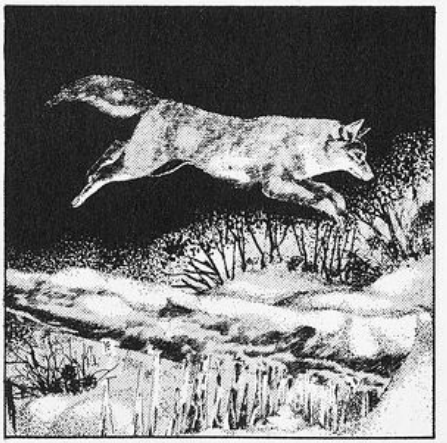
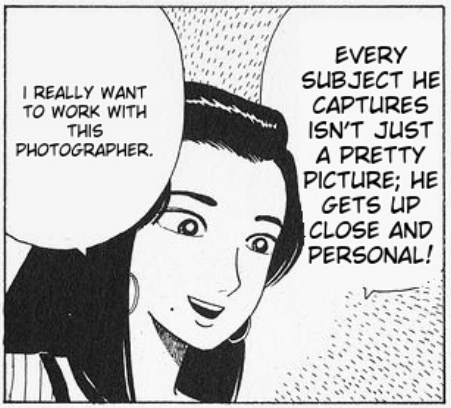
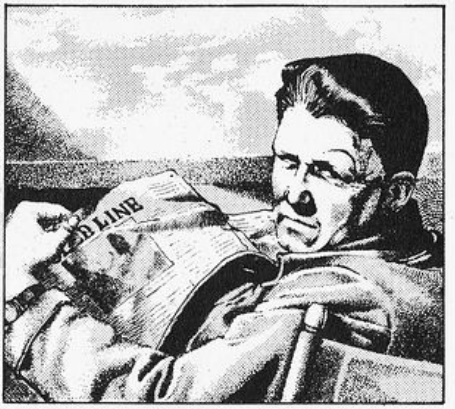





I REALLY WANT TO WORK WITH THIS PHOTOGRAPHER.
EVERY SUBJECT HE CAPTURES ISN'T JUST A PRETTY PICTURE; HE GETS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!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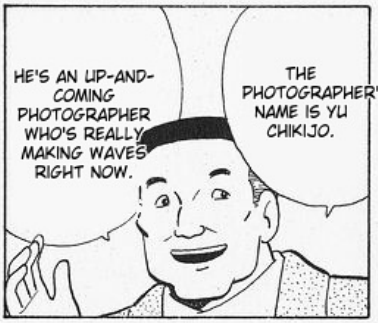
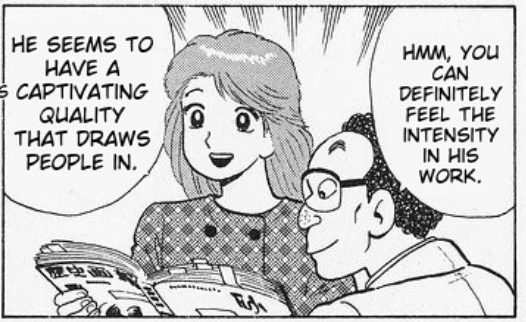

HE'S AN UP-AND-COMING PHOTOGRAPHER WHO'S REALLY MAKING WAVES RIGHT NOW.
THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME IS YU CHIKIJO.


HE SEEMS TO HAVE A CAPTIVATING QUALITY THAT DRAWS PEOPLE IN.
HMM, YOU CAN DEFINITELY FEEL THE INTENSITY IN HIS WORK.

3

WELL, THAT SOUNDS LIKE QUITE A CHALLENGE...

I'M GOING TO GIVE NEGOTIATING A SHOT.
I KNOW IT'LL BE TOUGH, BUT...

HE'S GOT A STRONG PERSONALITY, BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE, BUT APPARENTLY, HE'S A HANDFUL.
HE'S BEEN WINNING AWARDS LEFT AND RIGHT LATELY, SO HIS SPIRITS ARE HIGH.
フィルム大賞贈

WHY? IT'S NOT MY JOB.
PLEASE, YAMAOKA-SAN, COME WITH ME! I'M SO UNSURE OF MYSELF...
I CAN'T STAND THAT! ISN'T THIS YOUR JOB AFTER ALL?
チャ
B会議室
ヒョ
BUT IF HE TURNS ME DOWN... I...
I JUST WANT TO MAKE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' A SUCCESS, SO I SUGGESTED WORKING WITH A GREAT PHOTOGRAPHER LIKE CHIKIJO.
AH... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
4
ペロ
JUST PLEASE STOP CRYING!
OKAY, OKAY, I'LL HELP!
シク シク

SHE FINESSED HIM SO EASILY...
I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN...
WHAT!
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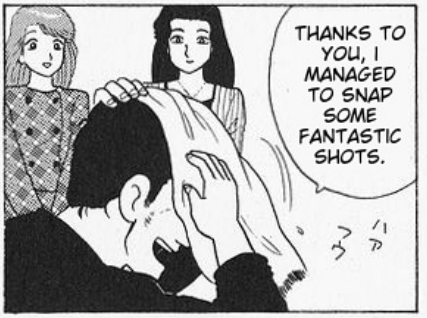
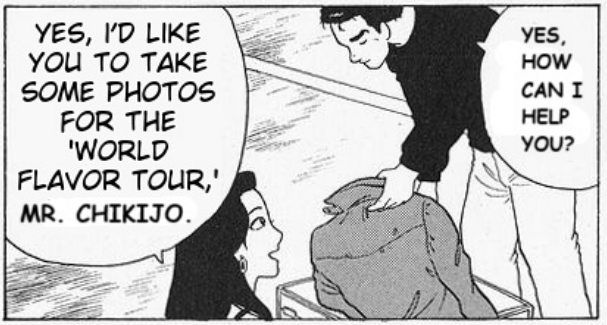
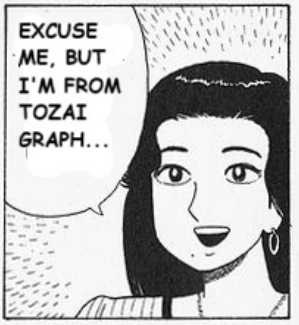
ニ
NAMBOKU UNIVERSITY
5
WE'RE LOOKING FOR CHIKIJO-SAN...
I'M REALLY SORRY.

*TL NOTE: I HATE TO BE THAT GUY, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY STANDARD FOR SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHERS TO DO THAT SORT OF THING...

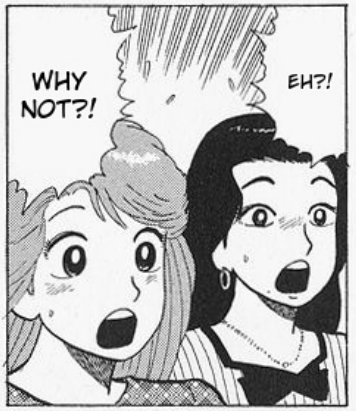
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST PRACTICE, STEPPING ONTO THE FIELD DURING A MATCH IS SOMETHING ELSE.
WELL, I MUST ADMIT, YOUR ENTHUSIASM HAS WON ME OVER.


THANKS TO YOU, I MANAGED TO SNAP SOME FANTASTIC SHOTS.


YES, I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE SOME PHOTOS FOR THE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR,' MR. CHIKIJO.
YES, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?


EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M FROM TOZAI GRAPH...

7


WHY NOT?!
EH?!

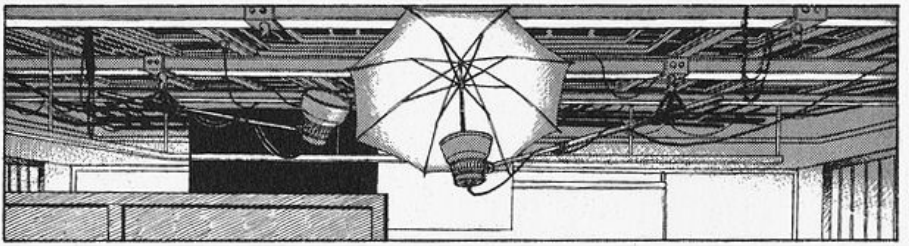
PLEASE, EXCUSE ME...
SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO DECLINE.

WE WANT TO PURSUE FOOD AS A CULTURE!
OUR AIM ISN'T JUST SUPERFICIAL!
I ABSOLUTELY DESPISE THE FLASHY NONSENSE OF THIS SO-CALLED GOURMET BOOM!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN PHOTOS OF MERE FOOD.
WHAT!
HMPH, YOUR WORDS ARE QUITE GRAND, AREN'T THEY?
THERE'S A RAW TRUTH IN WILDLIFE, A WEIGHTY HISTORY IN RUINS, AND A VISCERAL REALITY IN THE GAME OF RUGBY.
Nikon
I WANT TO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF TRUTH.
8
YAMAOKA-SAN... PLEASE, FIND A WAY...
THAT'S ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY!
BUT THERE'S NO TRUTH IN PLAYING GOURMET!

NO WAY!

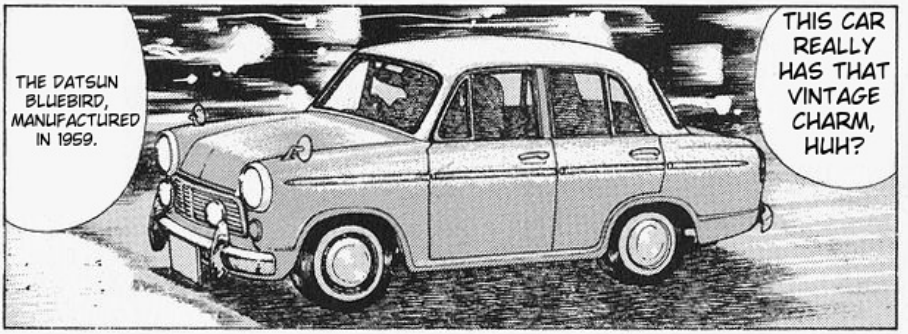
BUT THAT GUY'S WORDS RING TRUE, DON'T THEY?
HMM...

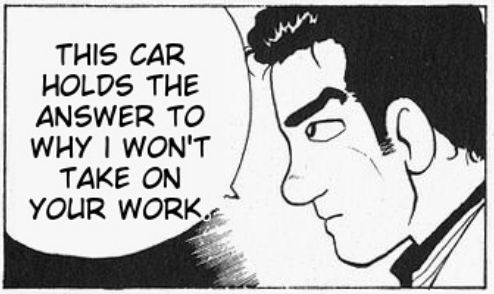
I CAN'T JUST LET IT END LIKE THIS...
IT'S INFURIATING...

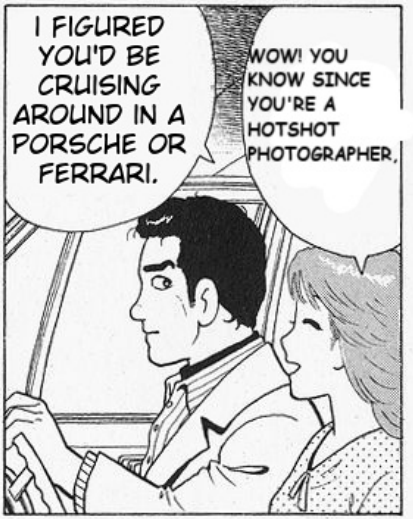


9

GOOD JOB.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

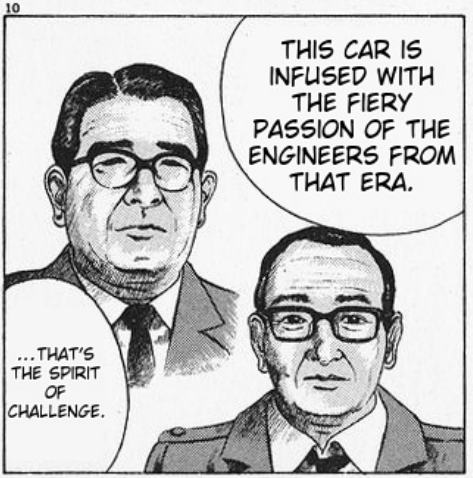

THE DATSUN BLUEBIRD, MANUFACTURED IN 1959.
THIS CAR REALLY HAS THAT VINTAGE CHARM, HUH?


THIS CAR HOLDS THE ANSWER TO WHY I WON'T TAKE ON YOUR WORK.


I FIGURED YOU'D BE CRUISING AROUND IN A PORSCHE OR FERRARI.
WOW! YOU KNOW SINCE YOU'RE A HOTSHOT PHOTOGRAPHER,

WAIT... WHAT?

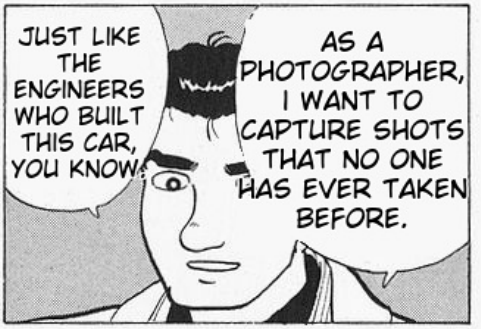
10


THIS CAR IS INFUSED WITH THE FIERY PASSION OF THE ENGINEERS FROM THAT ERA.
...THAT'S THE SPIRIT OF CHALLENGE.

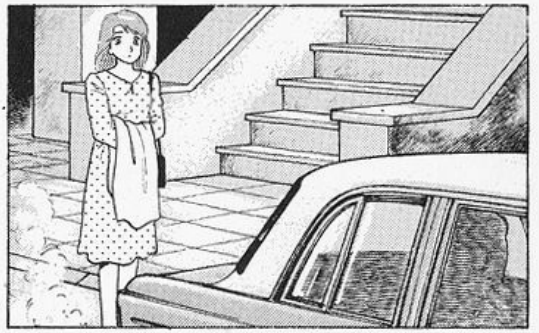
THIS IS A CAR FROM THE TIME WHEN WE FIRST STARTED CRAFTING PASSENGER VEHICLES SERIOUSLY.
JAPAN'S AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY WAS LAGGING FAR BEHIND AMERICA AND EUROPE,

THAT'S MY REASON FOR TURNING DOWN YOUR OFFER.
HOWEVER, I REALLY CAN'T SEE CAPTURING DELICIOUS FOOD PHOTOS AS MUCH OF A CHALLENGE.

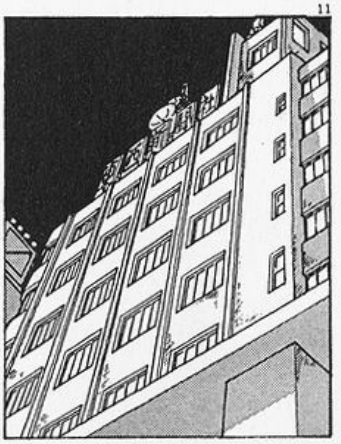
THAT SPIRIT OF CHALLENGE...!


JUST LIKE THE ENGINEERS WHO BUILT THIS CAR, YOU KNOW.
AS A PHOTOGRAPHER, I WANT TO CAPTURE SHOTS THAT NO ONE HAS EVER TAKEN BEFORE.

ALRIGHT, LET'S MAKE THIS A CHALLENGE THEN...
THAT SPIRIT OF CHALLENGE...

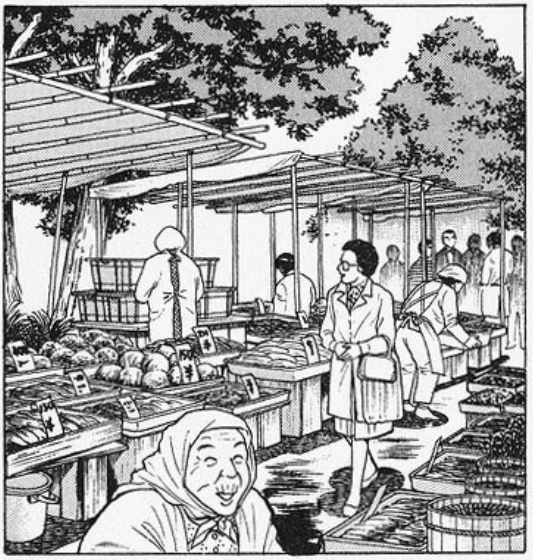


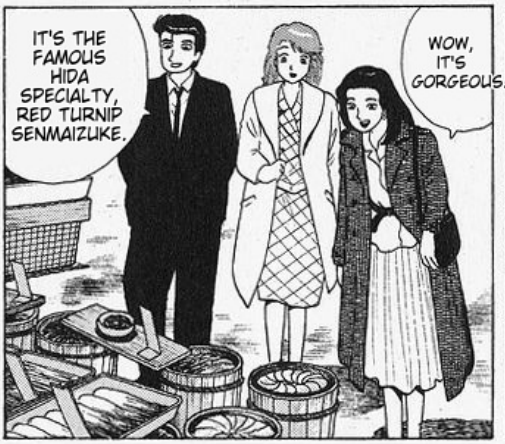
I WONDER IF THERE'S A WAY TO SPARK SOME PHOTO-TAKING INSPIRATION IN CHIKIJO-SAN.
AFTER BEING TOLD THAT, I CAN'T JUST BACK DOWN LIKE THIS; IT WOULD TARNISH MY PRIDE!

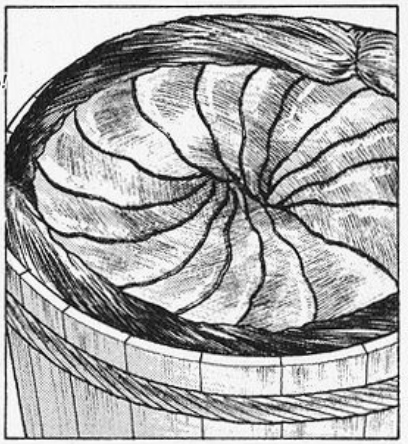


CAPTURING SHARK FINS COULD BE QUITE THE SIGHT TOO, DON'T YOU THINK?
DIVING INTO THE CASPIAN SEA TO CATCH STURGEON FOR CAVIAR SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL!
HOW ABOUT COMPETING WITH THE WORLD'S GREATEST CHEFS?
IMAGINE THE SPLENDIDLY EXTRAVAGANT DISHES AND EXOTIC FOODS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
SO, HOW ABOUT A LITTLE ADVENTURE FOR SOME INSPIRATION?
FLOAT -LIKE THIS!
HMM... THAT COULD BE ONE WAY TO CHALLENGE OURSELVES...
WHERE ARE WE GOING FOR THIS INSPIRATION?
NOT AT ALL! DON'T MIX WORK WITH PLAY!
12
OH NO, I'VE BEEN SWEPT AWAY BY EXCITEMENT!
ALRIGHT THEN, IT'S SETTLED!
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO THE MORNING MARKET IN TAKAYAMA, HIDA?
I'D LOVE TO- YES!
NO, BUT I'D LOVE TO!

DELICIOUS!

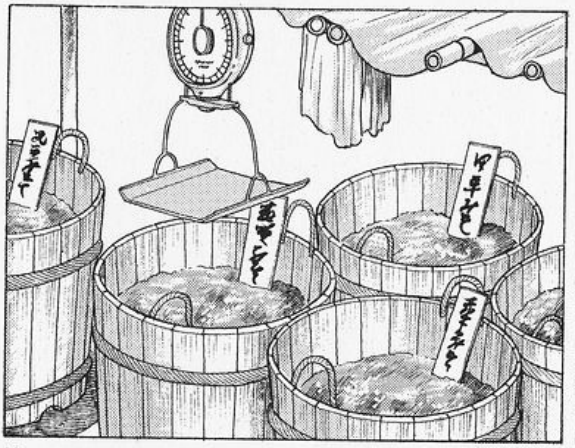






13

THIS PLACE IS A TREASURE TROVE OF PICKLES!
白菜
本日の
ONE BOTTLE OF ASAKIYO, PLEASE!
WE'VE GOT UME PICKLES AND NAPA CABBAGE PICKLES TOO,



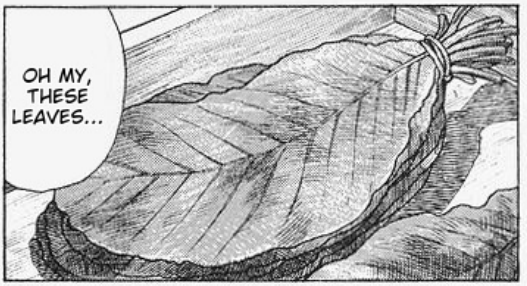
MA'AM, I'D LIKE SOME PICKLED NAPA CABBAGE, PLEASE.

14

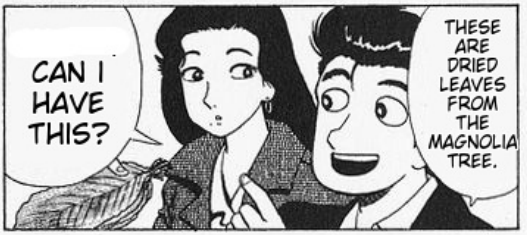
I CAN TASTE A HINT OF SOY SAUCE IN THIS, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I LOVE IT!
RIGHT? IT'S NOT JUST SOYBEANS, THERE'S BARLEY IN THE MIX AS WELL.

WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AROMA!
THERE'S QUITE THE VARIETY OF MISO HERE!

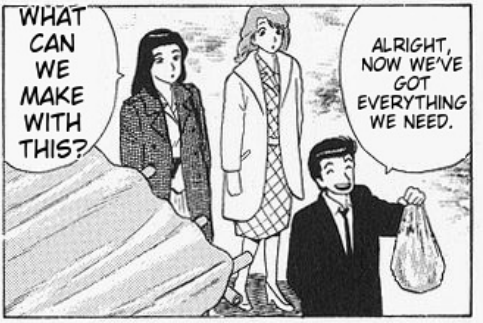
THAT MISO LOOKS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!
UM, I'LL TAKE THIS ONE, PLEASE.

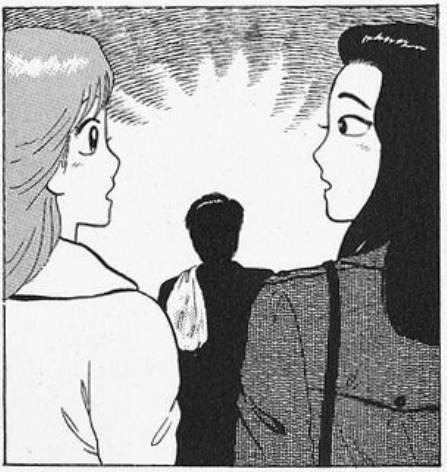

OH MY, THESE LEAVES...

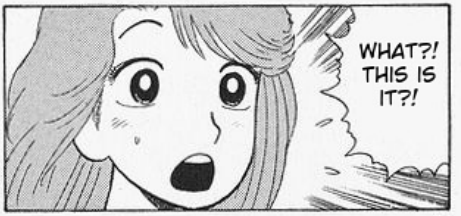
THIS IS A DRY GOODS STORE.
DRIED RADISH, FREEZE-DRIED TOFU, AND DRIED SHIMEJI MUSHROOMS...
干し大根


CAN I HAVE THIS?
THESE ARE DRIED LEAVES FROM THE MAGNOLIA TREE.

THIS IS GOING TO BE THE DISH THAT'S GOING TO CHARM CHIKIJO-SAN!


WHAT CAN WE MAKE WITH THIS?
ALRIGHT, NOW WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE NEED.




WHAT?! THIS IS IT?!

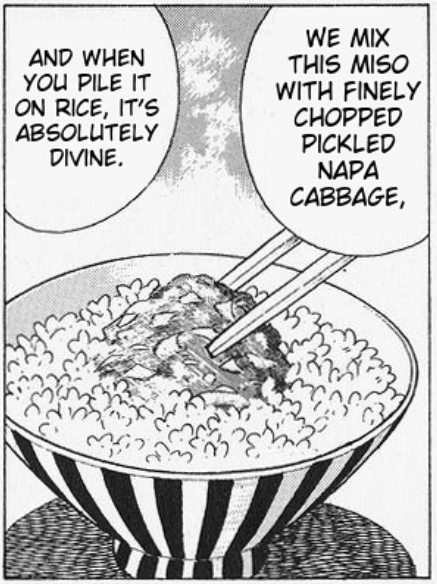
15

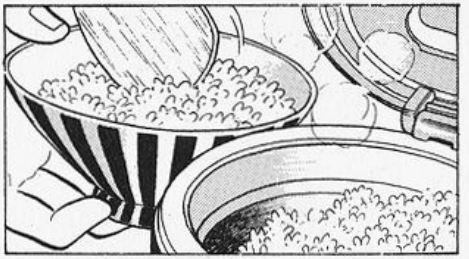
DOESN'T IT LOOK A BIT SHABBY?
BOK LEAVES, MISO, AND PICKLED NAPA CABBAGE...

109
谷駅前ビル
バロン
オリエンタル
3F 企画(株)
近城フォトスタジオ
マーケティングC
5F
HMM?
ピク
ピク
チャ
CAN I HELP YOU?
I'M JUST DROPPING BY TO CHECK ON YOU IN THE MIDST OF THE ACTION!

WE PLACE A DRIED MAGNOLIA LEAF OVER THE CHARCOAL FIRE AND GENTLY TOAST THE MISO ON TOP.
IT'S HIDA'S FAMOUS MAGNOLIA HERBAL MISO.

WHAT'S THAT?
HMM...


AND WHEN YOU PILE IT ON RICE, IT'S ABSOLUTELY DIVINE.
WE MIX THIS MISO WITH FINELY CHOPPED PICKLED NAPA CABBAGE,



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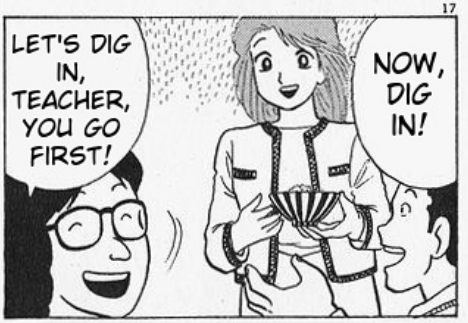
LET'S DIG IN, TEACHER, YOU GO FIRST!
NOW, DIG IN!

IT PAIRS PERFECTLY WITH THE PICKLED CABBAGE!
OH, THE TASTE AND AROMA OF THIS MISO!
WHOA! THIS IS SO GOOD-!
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
18
MISO, CABBAGE, AND RICE! HOW CAN THE JAPANESE BE SO POOR IN THEIR CULINARY DELIGHTS?
WOOAH!
THIS IS SO UNBELIEVABLY DELICIOUS IT COULD KNOCK YOU DEAD-!
ハフハフ

DELICIOUS!

THE SCENT OF THESE MAGNOLIA LEAVES IS ABSOLUTELY INTOXICATING!
DAMN, I'M SO GLAD I WAS BORN JAPANESE!
IT'S A VERY SIMPLE TASTE, BUT IT STIRS THE VERY SOUL OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE.
CHIKIJO, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CAPTURE THIS SIMPLE YET PROFOUND EMOTION IN A PHOTOGRAPH?
WILDLIFE, ANCIENT RUINS, RUGBY—NONE OF THESE BOAST THE FLAIR, INTENSITY, OR MYSTERY THAT THE HUMBLE MAGNOLIA LEAF MISO POSSESSES.
IN SHORT, JUST PRESSING THE SHUTTER WON'T GUARANTEE A LUCKY SHOT; THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT DEMANDS MORE.
19
カタ…
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY...?
NONE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS I'VE SEEN IN MAGAZINES OR BOOKS ABOUT MAGNOLIA LEAF MISO HAVE EVER MANAGED TO EVOKE THIS KIND OF EMOTION.
BUT WITH YOUR SKILLS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD CAPTURE IT...

I BELIEVE CAPTURING THAT MOMENT IN A PHOTOGRAPH IS ALSO A WORTHY CHALLENGE...
IF THE THRILL OF SAVORING DELICIOUS FOOD HOLDS VALUE FOR US HUMANS,
ISN'T THAT A CHALLENGE IN ITSELF?
EXPRESSING THE DEPTH OF MY EMOTIONS THROUGH SIMPLE, UNASSUMING SUBJECTS,
WHAT?!
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE! JUST GET ME MORE OF THIS!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
バクバク

フガ
……
CHIKIJO IS ALL ABOUT THAT FIGHTING SPIRIT, WHILE YAMAOKA-SAN IS JUST LOUNGING AROUND WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD...
...IT'S LIKE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLDS, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE BOTH GUYS...
HONESTLY, I JUST ENDED UP MAKING HIM EVEN GRUMPIER...
AND THE HOBA MISO YAMAOKA-SAN TAUGHT ME, WELL,
21
I DID IT! I REALLY DID IT!
?
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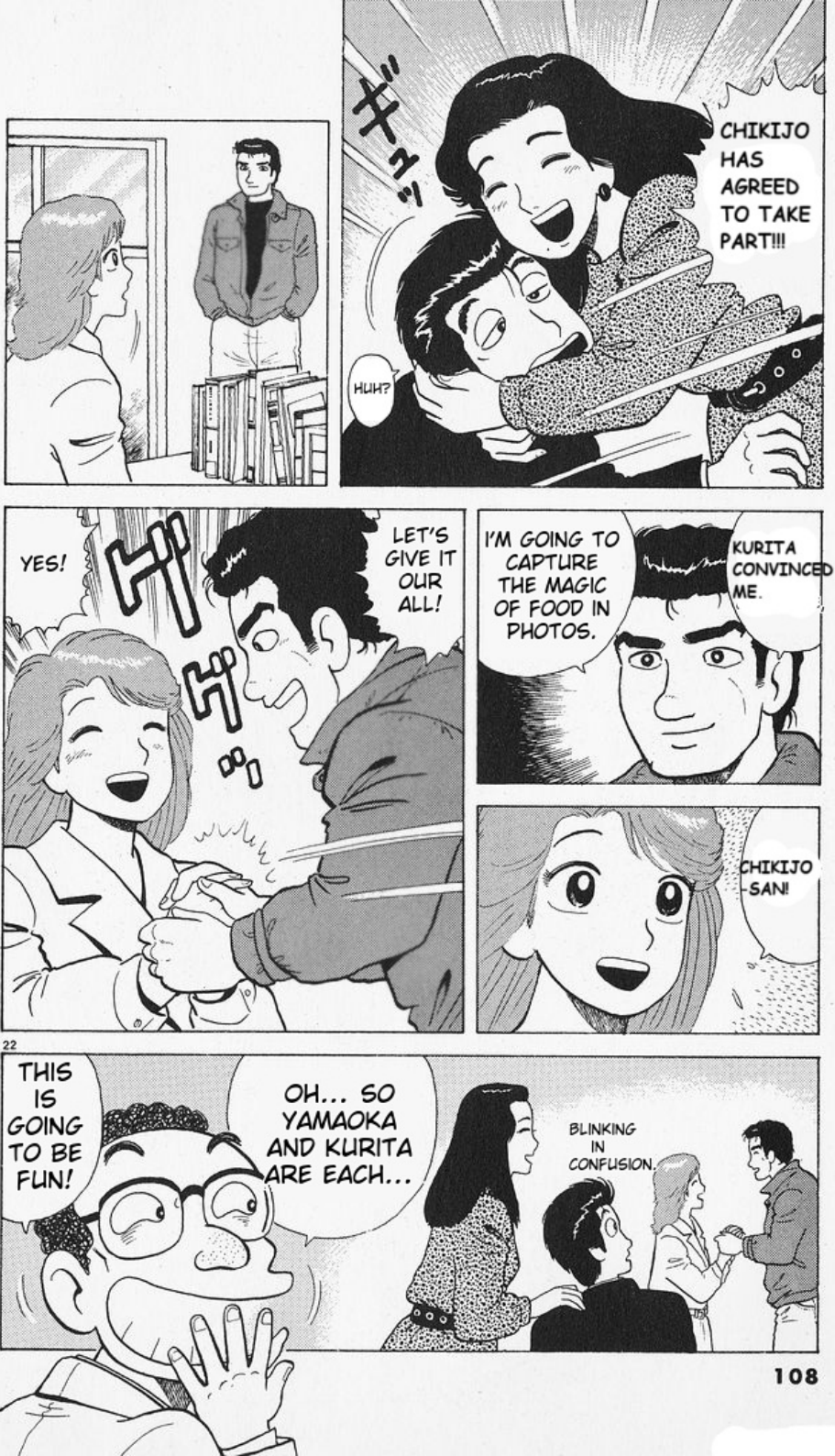
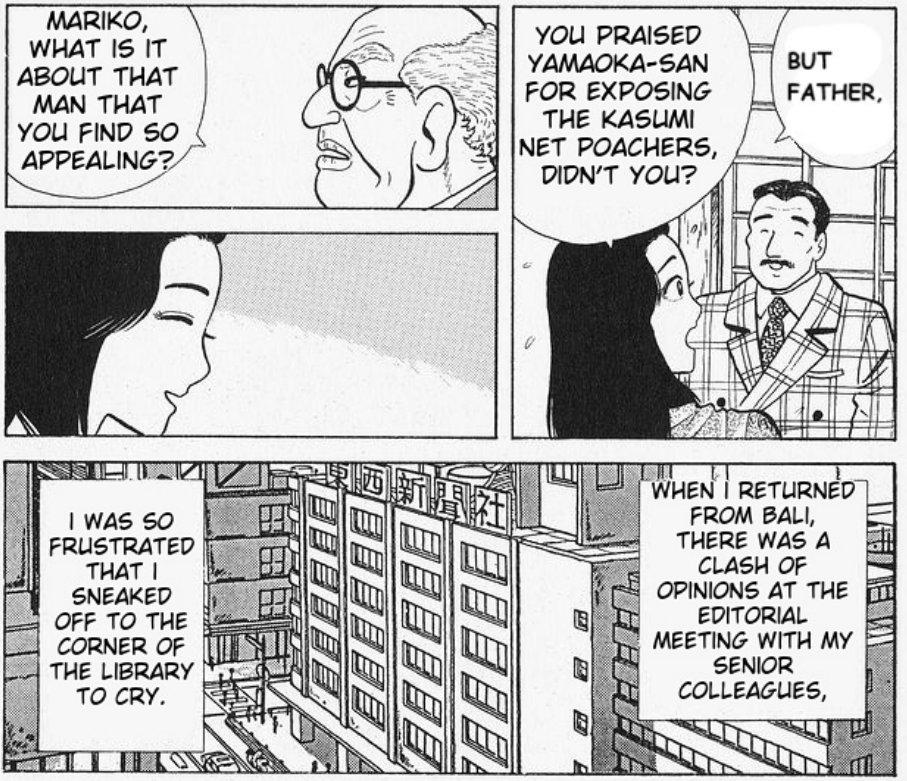
カツ


ギュッ
CHIKIJO HAS AGREED TO TAKE PART!!!
HUH?
YES!
LET'S GIVE IT OUR ALL!
I'M GOING TO CAPTURE THE MAGIC OF FOOD IN PHOTOS.
KURITA CONVINCED ME.
CHIKIJO -SAN!
22
THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN!
OH... SO YAMAOKA AND KURITA ARE EACH...
BLINKING IN CONFUSION.

第6話
カジキの真価

YES, GRANDFATHER.
I WANT TO DECIDE ON A HUSBAND FOR YOU, THE ONLY HEIR OF THE FUTAKI FAMILY, WHILE I'M STILL FULL OF LIFE.
MARIKO, DON'T FORGET OUR PROMISE.
I UNDERSTAND.
THE MAN WHO BECOMES MY SON-IN-LAW MUST MEET OUR STANDARDS.
2
YES... WELL, AT FIRST, HE DIDN'T REALLY STAND OUT.
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIM?
YOU MET HIM, RIGHT? THAT GUY YAMAOKA...


MARIKO, WHAT IS IT ABOUT THAT MAN THAT YOU FIND SO APPEALING?
YOU PRAISED YAMAOKA-SAN FOR EXPOSING THE KASUMI NET POACHERS, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT FATHER,
I WAS SO FRUSTRATED THAT I SNEAKED OFF TO THE CORNER OF THE LIBRARY TO CRY.
WHEN I RETURNED FROM BALI, THERE WAS A CLASH OF OPINIONS AT THE EDITORIAL MEETING WITH MY SENIOR COLLEAGUES,
3
UGH...
AND THEN...
カ
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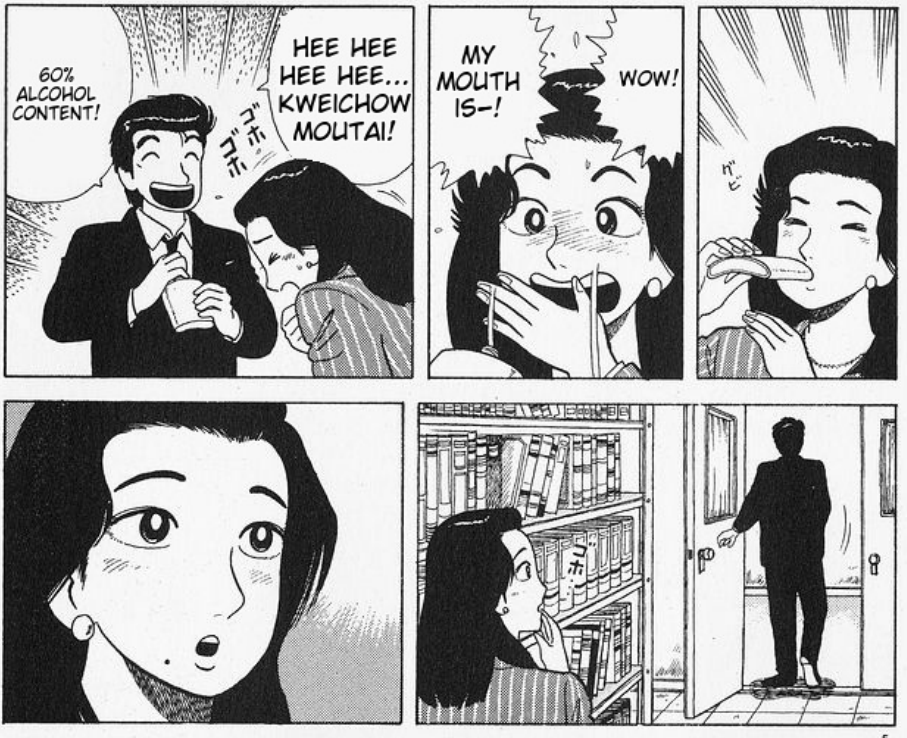
ニカ
DOWN THE HATCH! HAHA!
UGH!
HEHEHE... BEING A SALARYMAN IS JUST TOO RIDICULOUS TO BEAR, RIGHT?!
.....
COME ON!
4
HERE, HAVE A DRINK TO WAKE YOURSELF UP.
I CAN'T...
ALCOHOL IS LIKE A MAGICAL BROOM THAT SWEEPS AWAY YOUR WORRIES.

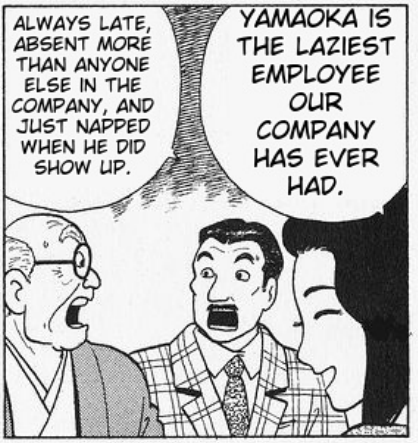
DELICIOUS!


60% ALCOHOL CONTENT!
HEE HEE HEE HEE... KWEICHOW MOUTAI!
ゴボ ゴボ
MY MOUTH IS-!
WOW!
ガビ
5

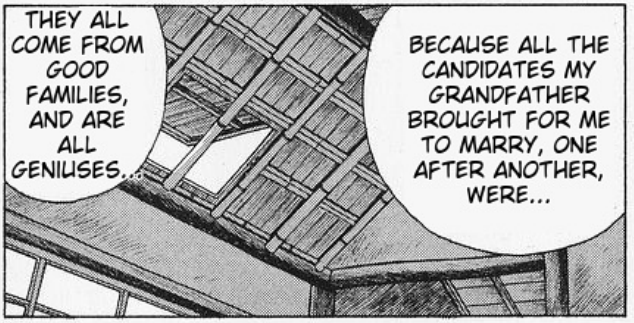
WHEN WE MET AGAIN THE NEXT TIME, HE GREETED ME LIKE HE'D NEVER SEEN ME BEFORE.
BUT, OF COURSE, HE COMPLETELY FORGOT IT HAPPENED...
HE SOUNDS UTTERLY RIDICULOUS!

HE WAS SO KIND!

WHY WOULD YOU CHOOSE SOMEONE LIKE THAT...?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

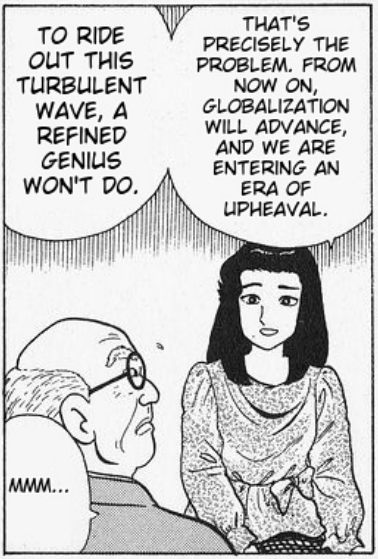

ALWAYS LATE, ABSENT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE COMPANY, AND JUST NAPPED WHEN HE DID SHOW UP.
YAMAOKA IS THE LAZIEST EMPLOYEE OUR COMPANY HAS EVER HAD.

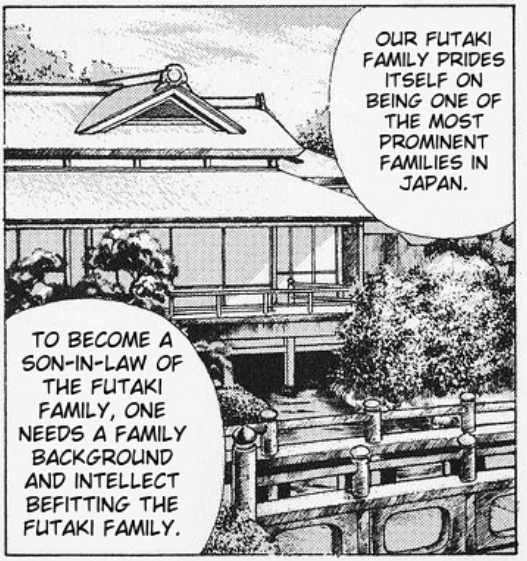
TO BRING NEW BLOOD INTO THE FUTAKI FAMILY.


THEY ALL COME FROM GOOD FAMILIES, AND ARE ALL GENIUSES...
BECAUSE ALL THE CANDIDATES MY GRANDFATHER BROUGHT FOR ME TO MARRY, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, WERE...

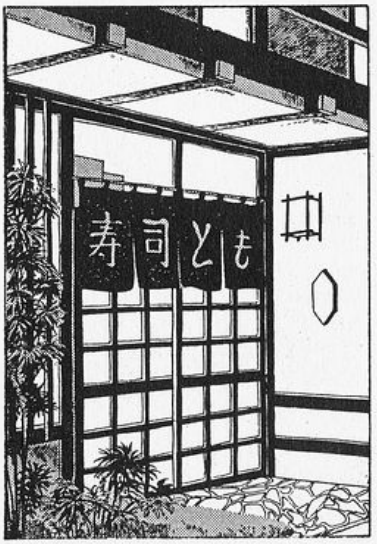
NEW BLOOD?

6


TO RIDE OUT THIS TURBULENT WAVE, A REFINED GENIUS WON'T DO.
THAT'S PRECISELY THE PROBLEM. FROM NOW ON, GLOBALIZATION WILL ADVANCE, AND WE ARE ENTERING AN ERA OF UPHEAVAL.
MMM...


OUR FUTAKI FAMILY PRIDES ITSELF ON BEING ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT FAMILIES IN JAPAN.
TO BECOME A SON-IN-LAW OF THE FUTAKI FAMILY, ONE NEEDS A FAMILY BACKGROUND AND INTELLECT BEFITTING THE FUTAKI FAMILY.

SO, THIS IS THE MAN KNOWN AS YAMAOKA...
WHAT'S NEEDED IS SOMEONE WHO APPEARS FREE-SPIRITED AND A BIT WILD,
SOMEONE UNTAMED BY SOCIETY'S CONSTRAINTS, YET STILL FIRMLY HOLDS ONTO THE MOST IMPORTANT ROOTS OF REALITY.
IT SEEMS HE TRULY GRASPS THE ESSENCE OF THINGS...
AT FIRST GLANCE, HE MAY SEEM DULL, BUT HIS APPROACH TO THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE WHOLE INCIDENT WITH THE KASUMI NET...
I WILL DEFINITELY CATCH HIM, MARK MY WORDS!
HE'LL SURELY BE INVALUABLE TO THE FUTAKI FAMILY.
YAMAOKA IS INDEED AN ODDBALL, BUT HE'S THE REAL DEAL.
7


寿司とも

AH, THANK YOU.
PLEASE, GO AHEAD.
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S RAISE OUR GLASSES FOR THE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' CREW!
?
WELL... THAT'S...
CHIKIJO LACKS INTEREST IN FOOD?
BUT I THINK A PHOTOGRAPHER NEEDS TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING; WHY IS IT THAT MR.
WELL, I'M WORKING ON THE 'SUPREME MENU'.
YOU'RE FROM THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER, HUH?
HEY THERE.
HUH?
SO, IS THIS SUSHI PLACE THE ULTIMATE SUSHI SPOT?
WOW, WHAT AN HONOR!

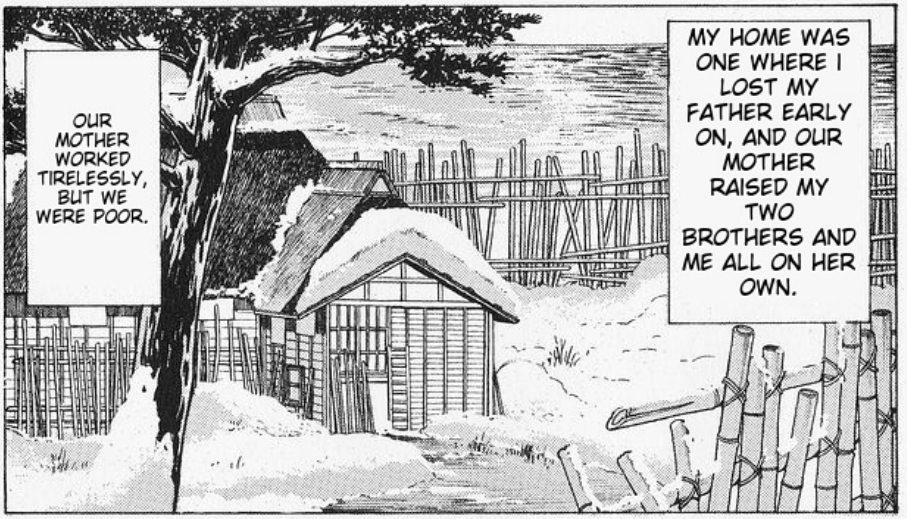
DELICIOUS!

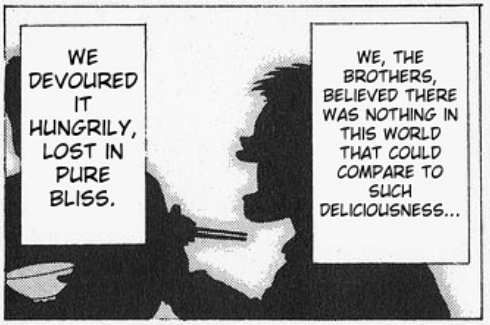
WELL THEN, LET ME WITNESS THE ULTIMATE WAY TO SAVOR SUSHI!
はははっ
NOW, NOW, GENTLEMEN, LET'S CALM DOWN A BIT...
THAT'S HIRAMACHI, THE HEAD OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE SECTION AT TEITO NEWS.
THOSE TWO GIVE OFF A REALLY UNPLEASANT VIBE...;
CULTURAL FIGURES LOITERING AROUND SHINJUKU, HUH...
ARE YOU READY TO ORDER?
OH, I'M ALREADY STARVING!
UM...
DO YOU HAVE SWORDFISH?
9
ギョッ
.....
.....

SERIOUSLY, ORDERING SWORDFISH AT A SUSHI JOINT IS JUST CRUEL!
わっはっは
THIS IS A REAL PICKLE! SWORDFISH, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
AH, UM, I'M SORRY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE OUT OF THAT TODAY...
ふぉ!
YOU CAN REALLY TELL WHERE SOMEONE'S FROM! THERE'S NO WAY 'THE ULTIMATE MENU' CAN COMPETE WITH 'THE SUPREME MENU' AT THIS RATE!
ゲンナリ
……
SWORDFISH SASHIMI IS TOUGH AND SMELLS LIKE OIL -IT'S SOMETHING YOU'D FIND IN A RUNDOWN DINER FOR THE MASSES!
10
FUNNY ENOUGH, THE SAME THING HAPPENED LONG BEFORE THIS...
WHEN I WAS JUST A HUMBLE ASSISTANT TO A DISTINGUISHED TEACHER, I WAS TAKEN TO A SUSHI RESTAURANT FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND I DARED TO ORDER SWORDFISH. I WAS RIDICULED AND BERATED BY THE SEASONED GOURMETS AROUND ME...
I'M A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER... AND I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH 'THE ULTIMATE MENU.'

DELICIOUS!

I'VE BEEN TOLD, 'YOUR PARENTS NEVER GAVE YOU ANYTHING GOOD TO EAT,' AND IT STUNG.
WHAT HIT US THE HARDEST WAS,


OUR MOTHER WORKED TIRELESSLY, BUT WE WERE POOR.
MY HOME WAS ONE WHERE I LOST MY FATHER EARLY ON, AND OUR MOTHER RAISED MY TWO BROTHERS AND ME ALL ON HER OWN.


WE DEVOURED IT HUNGRILY, LOST IN PURE BLISS.
WE, THE BROTHERS, BELIEVED THERE WAS NOTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT COULD COMPARE TO SUCH DELICIOUSNESS...

SEEING US ENJOY IT, OUR MOTHER WOULD BEAM WITH JOY, HER SMILE LIGHTING UP THE ROOM...

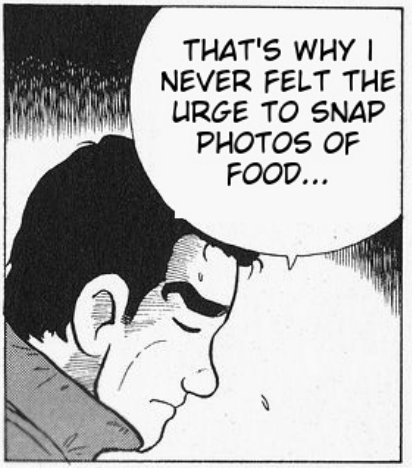
OUR MOTHER CAREFULLY ARRANGED THE SWORDFISH SASHIMI ON A PLATE, TREATING IT LIKE THE TREASURE IT WAS.
THE ULTIMATE DELICACY WE OCCASIONALLY GOT TO SAVOR WAS THE HEAVENLY SWORDFISH SASHIMI.

.....

MAYBE I WAS SO BURIED IN WORK THAT I FORGOT WHAT FOOD EVEN TASTED LIKE...
SO WHEN YOU SAY THAT, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR MY MOM.

I'VE COME TO THINK THAT GOURMET FOOD IS JUST NOT FOR ME.
EVER SINCE THEN, THE MERE MENTION OF A 'FOODIE' MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL...

OH, IS THAT SO...?


THAT'S WHY I NEVER FELT THE URGE TO SNAP PHOTOS OF FOOD...

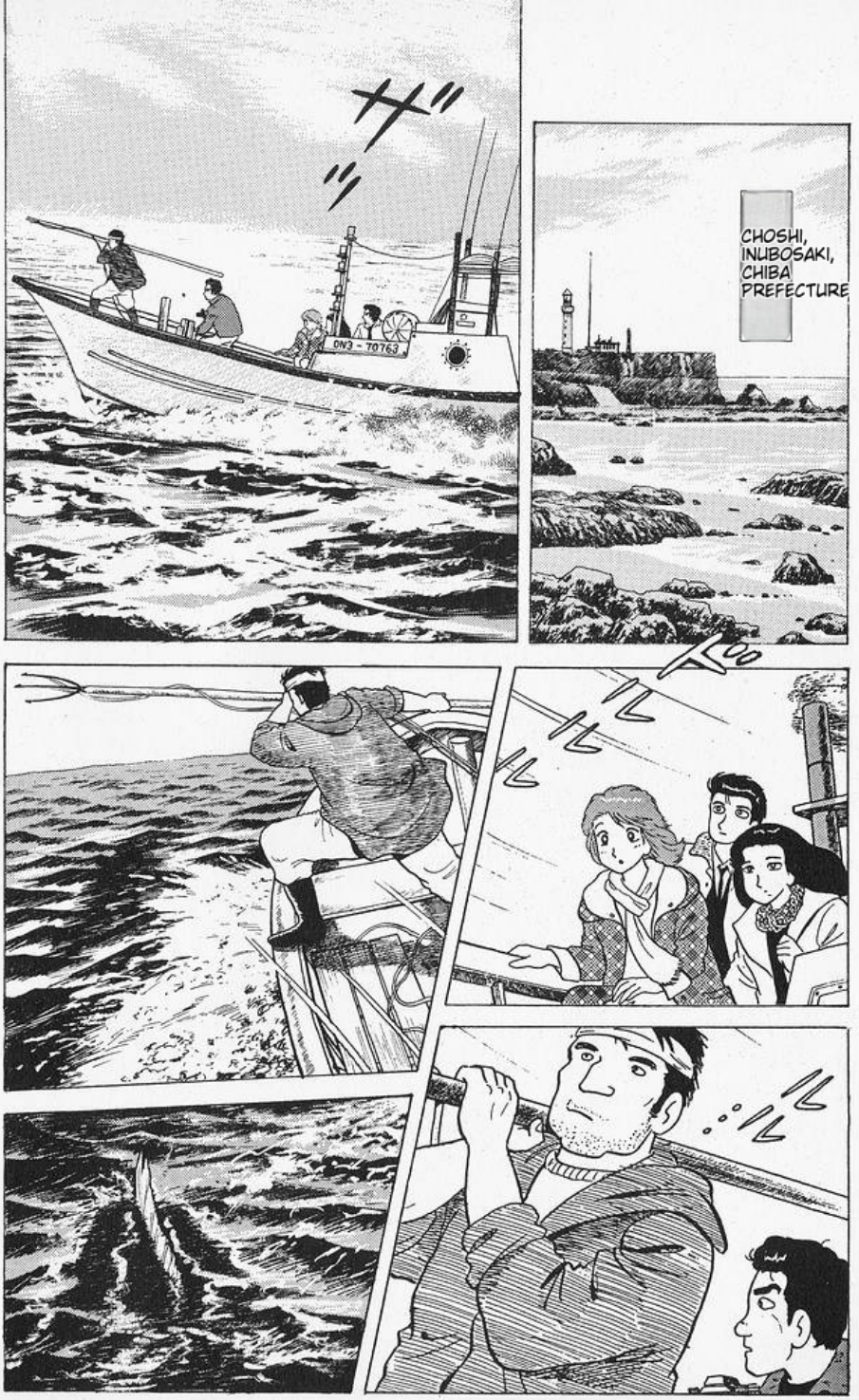
12

WHEN DID YOU EAT SWORDFISH?

I'M FROM CHOSHI.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

IS YOUR MOM FROM CHIBA?

HUH?
HEY HIRAMACHI, PLEASE INVITE EVERYONE BACK TO THIS PLACE AGAIN SOON.
I FEEL LIKE IT WAS A CHILLY SEASON, JUST LIKE NOW...
UH... I REMEMBER SLURPING MY NOSE WHILE DEVOURING FOOD.
YEAH... I SEE...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO COVER?
?
TO CHOSHI?
OUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT FOR THE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' IS SET! WE'RE HEADING TO CHOSHI!
13
A STICK-!?
OH, DON'T FORGET TO BRING A STICK!


CHOSHI, INUBOSAKI, CHIBA PREFECTURE

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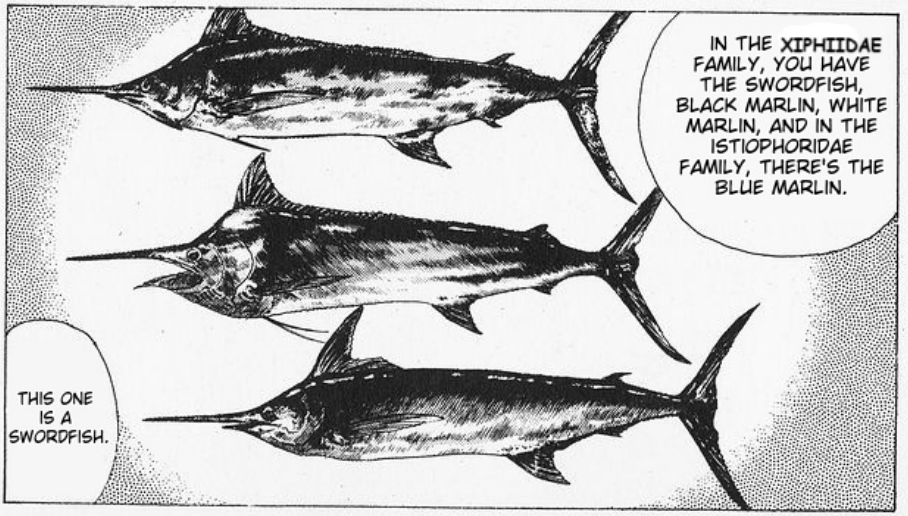
カシャ
カシャ
カシャ
きゃあ

IT'S HUGE, ISN'T IT-?!
TUNA SURE COMES IN MANY VARIETIES, DOESN'T IT?
NO, THEY COMMONLY CALL IT SWORDFISH, BUT SWORDFISH AND TUNA BELONG TO DIFFERENT FAMILIES...
TUNA, ON THE OTHER HAND, BELONGS TO THE SCOMBRIDAE FAMILY, AND-
SWORDFISH ARE PART OF THE XIPHIIDAE OR ISTIOPHORIDAE FAMILIES.

16


IN THE XIPHIIDAE FAMILY, YOU HAVE THE SWORDFISH, BLACK MARLIN, WHITE MARLIN, AND IN THE ISTIOPHORIDAE FAMILY, THERE'S THE BLUE MARLIN.
THIS ONE IS A SWORDFISH.

SHALL I TAKE THE BEST PART HOME WITH ME?
NOW, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BUT THE TASTIEST ONE IS THIS MARLIN RIGHT HERE!
へえ…
IT'S ON THE SMALLER SIDE AMONG THE SWORDFISH.
IS IT REALLY THAT IMPRESSIVE...?
...EVEN IF YOU SAY IT'S DELICIOUS...

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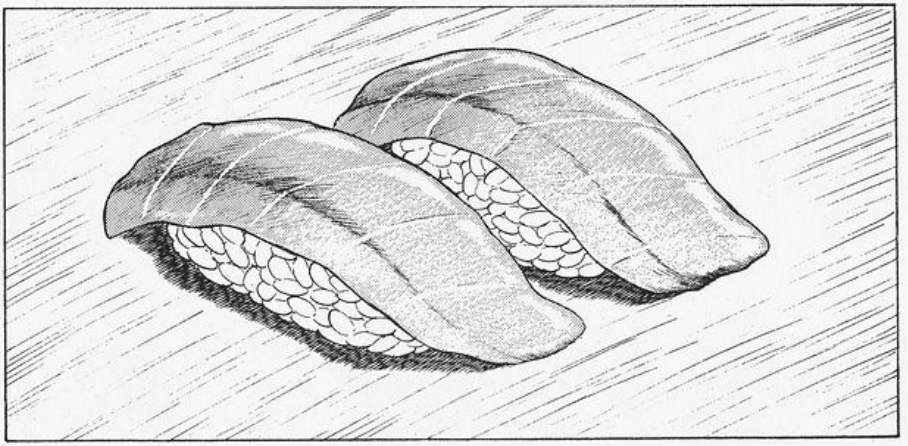
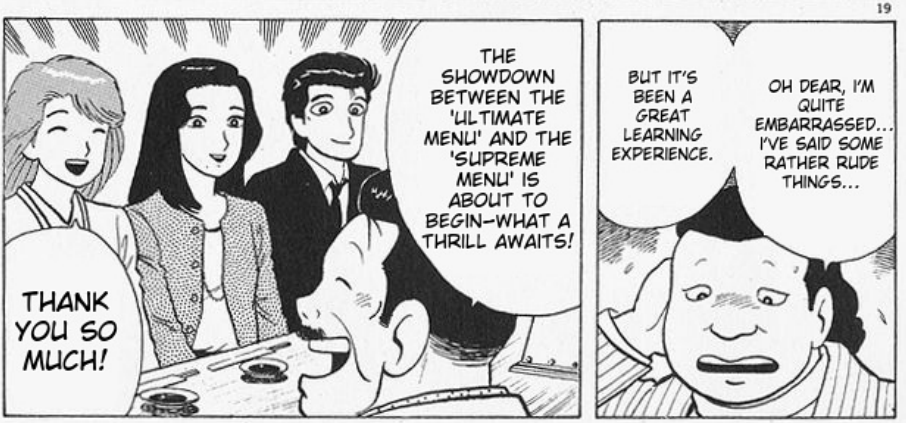
17



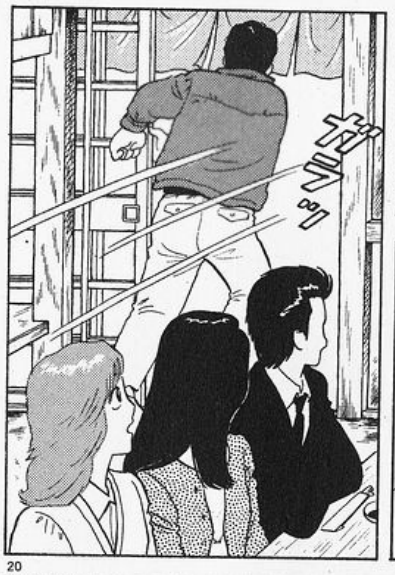
.....
IT'S BEAUTIFUL... SHOULD I CALL IT A PEACHY HUE WITH A HINT OF ORANGE?
WHAT AN AMAZING AROMA! IS THIS REALLY SWORDFISH?!
IT'S SO TENDER AND VELVETY; IT'S ABSOLUTELY IRRESISTIBLE!
パク
THIS IS IT... THIS IS THE ONE!!
THIS IS THE TASTE OF THE SWORDFISH MY MOM USED TO MAKE FOR ME!
18
IT HAS A LIGHT SWEETNESS, AND THE AFTERTASTE IS SO REFRESHING!
THERE'S NONE OF THAT STUBBORNNESS YOU FIND IN FROZEN TUNA!
RICH AND DECADENT, YET IT'S NOT GREASY OR FUNKY AT ALL!

SHALL WE TRY IT AS SASHIMI?
AHHH...
IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, THE FLAVOR OF THE SWORDFISH CAUGHT OFF THE BOSO PENINSULA IS SIMPLY DIVINE,
EVEN THE BLUEFIN TUNA CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO IT.
OUT-OF-SEASON BLACK AND WHITE MARLINS ARE INDEED NOT THAT TASTY.
THAT'S WHY SWORDFISH OFTEN GETS OVERLOOKED,
TO TRULY APPRECIATE THE ESSENCE OF SWORDFISH, YOU MUST SAVOR THE WINTER CATCH.

19


OH DEAR, I'M QUITE EMBARRASSED... I'VE SAID SOME RATHER RUDE THINGS...
BUT IT'S BEEN A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE.
THE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU' IS ABOUT TO BEGIN—WHAT A THRILL AWAITS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

YOUR MOTHER MUST HAVE BEEN AN AMAZING PERSON, CHIKIJO-SAN!
BUT SHE KNEW THE TRUE ESSENCE OF FLAVOR, NOT TO MENTION THE VERY BEST OF IT!
CHIKIJO-SAN, YOUR MOTHER MAY HAVE BEEN POOR,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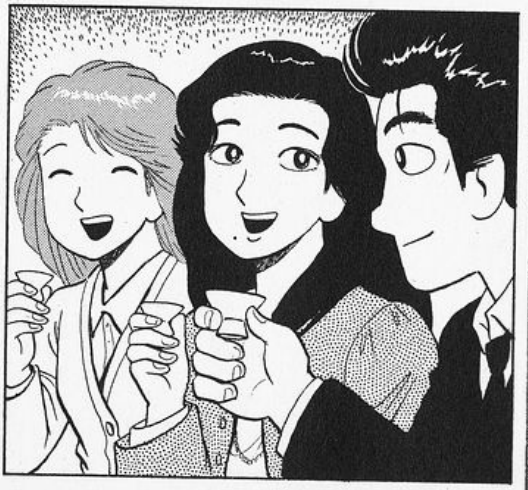
DAMN IT!!!

I'M GOING BACK FOR A REDO!
I STILL HAVEN'T CAPTURED A PHOTO THAT DOES THIS MOUTHWATERING GOODNESS JUSTICE!



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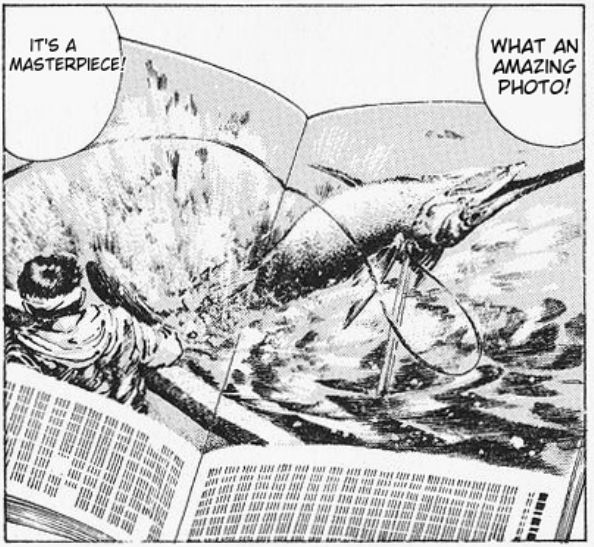
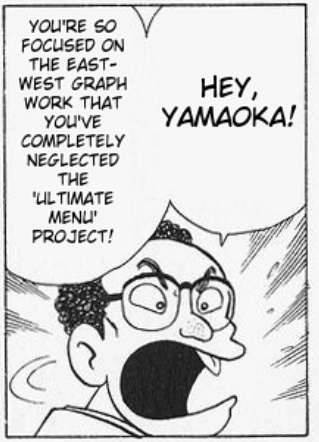

IT'S A MASTERPIECE!
WHAT AN AMAZING PHOTO!

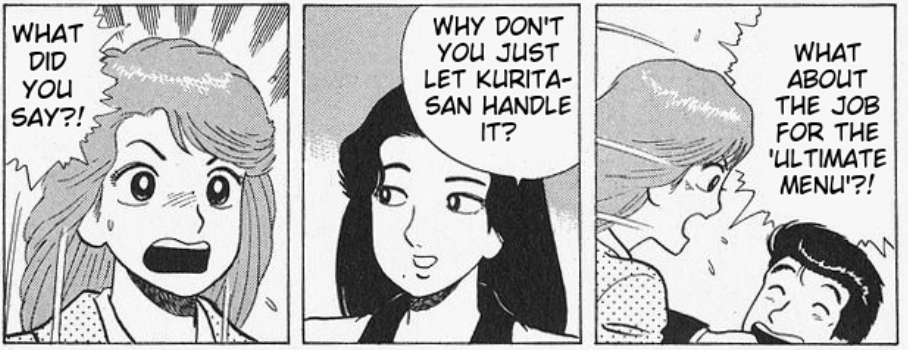
THANKS TO EVERYONE, THE 'WORLD CULINARY JOURNEY' PROJECT WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS!

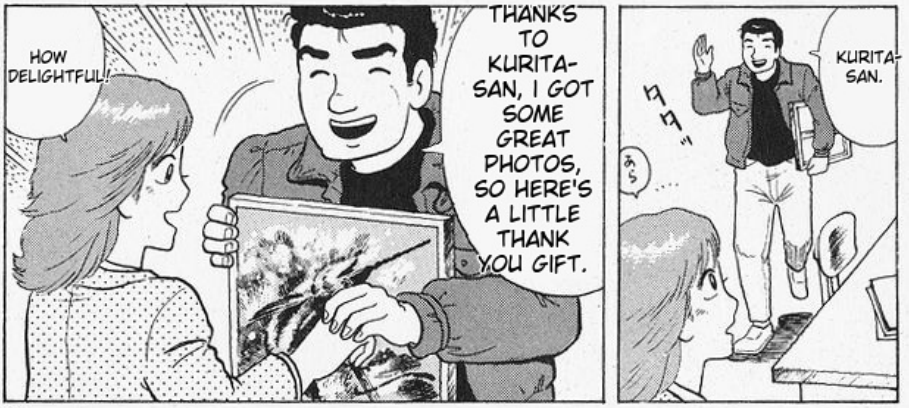
21

WHOA!

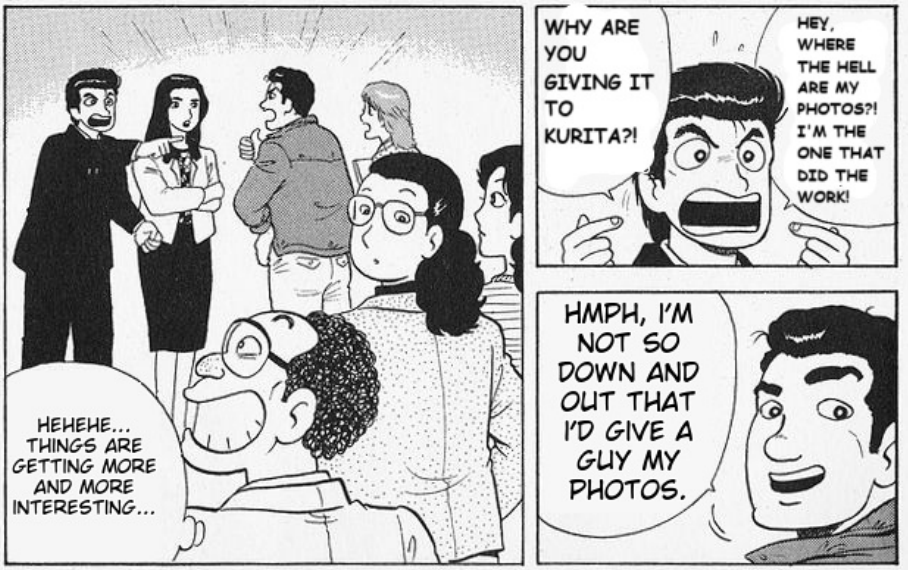
YOU SHOULD JUST COME WORK FOR TOZAI GRAPH!
YAMAOKA, YOU POOR THING, BEING BULLIED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOMII.
YEAH, MAYBE I SHOULD?


HEY, YAMAOKA!
YOU'RE SO FOCUSED ON THE EAST-WEST GRAPH WORK THAT YOU'VE COMPLETELY NEGLECTED THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' PROJECT!


WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET KURITA-SAN HANDLE IT?
WHAT ABOUT THE JOB FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!


HOW DELIGHTFUL!
THANKS TO KURITA-SAN, I GOT SOME GREAT PHOTOS, SO HERE'S A LITTLE THANK YOU GIFT.
KURITA-SAN.

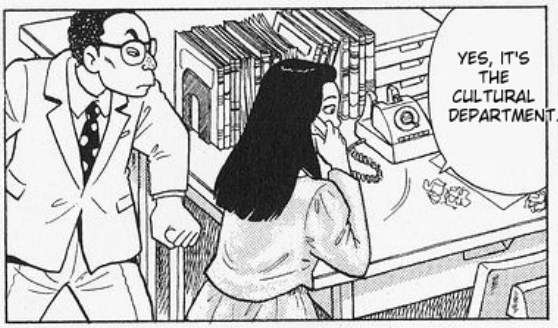
22

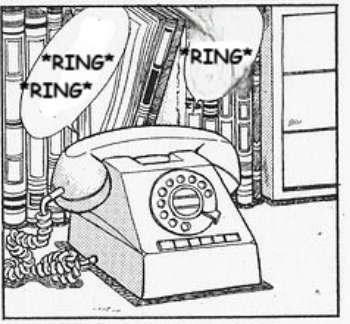

HEHEHE... THINGS ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING...
WHY ARE YOU GIVING IT TO KURITA?!
HEY, WHERE THE HELL ARE MY PHOTOS?! I'M THE ONE THAT DID THE WORK!
HMPH, I'M NOT SO DOWN AND OUT THAT I'D GIVE A GUY MY PHOTOS.

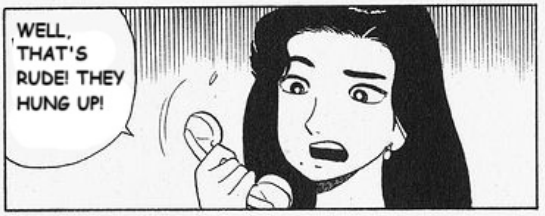
第7話
二人の花嫁候補

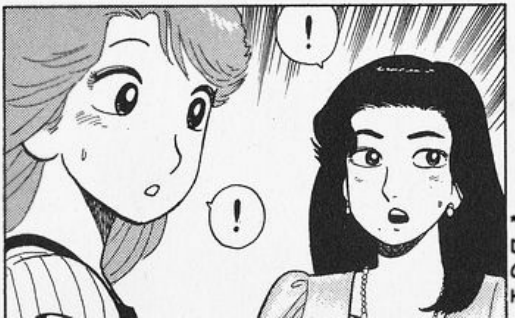
THE SHOWDOWN WITH THE 'SUPREME MENU' IS FAST APPROACHING!
HE'S USED UP ALL OF HIS SICK DAYS AND HIS ANNUAL PAID LEAVE! WHERE IN THE HELL IS HE?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YAMAOKA?! HE'S BEEN ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE FOR THREE DAYS NOW!
YEAH...
IS MR. YAMAOKA TAKING A DAY OFF AGAIN TODAY?
ガバ
WHAT THE HELL IS HE THINKING?!
2
YAMAOKA IS DONE, HE'S FIRED!
KE-KE---! IS THAT YOU, YAMAOKA?!
ジロ//

DELICIOUSNESS 21





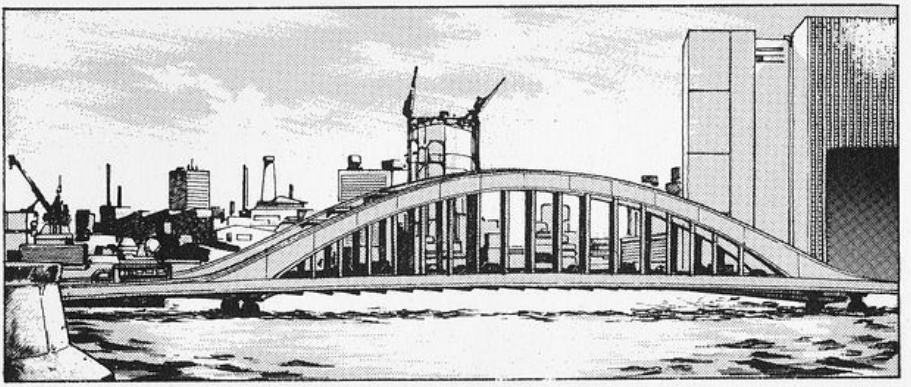


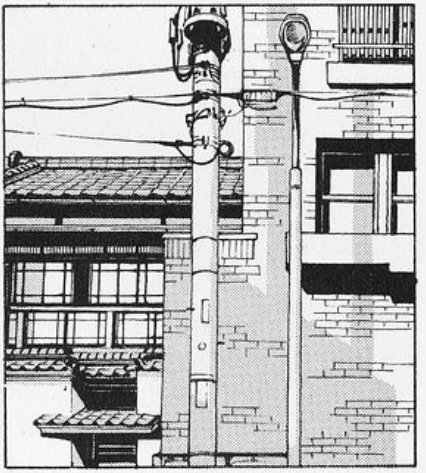


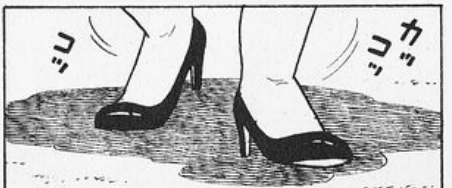
*TL NOTE: THE PANEL FEATURING TOMII YELLING DID NOT TRANSLATE THROUGH THE MACHINE CORRECTLY. I TOOK A BIT OF A GUESS ON WHAT HE SAID. "BIMBO" SEEMS LIKE A TERM HE'D USE.

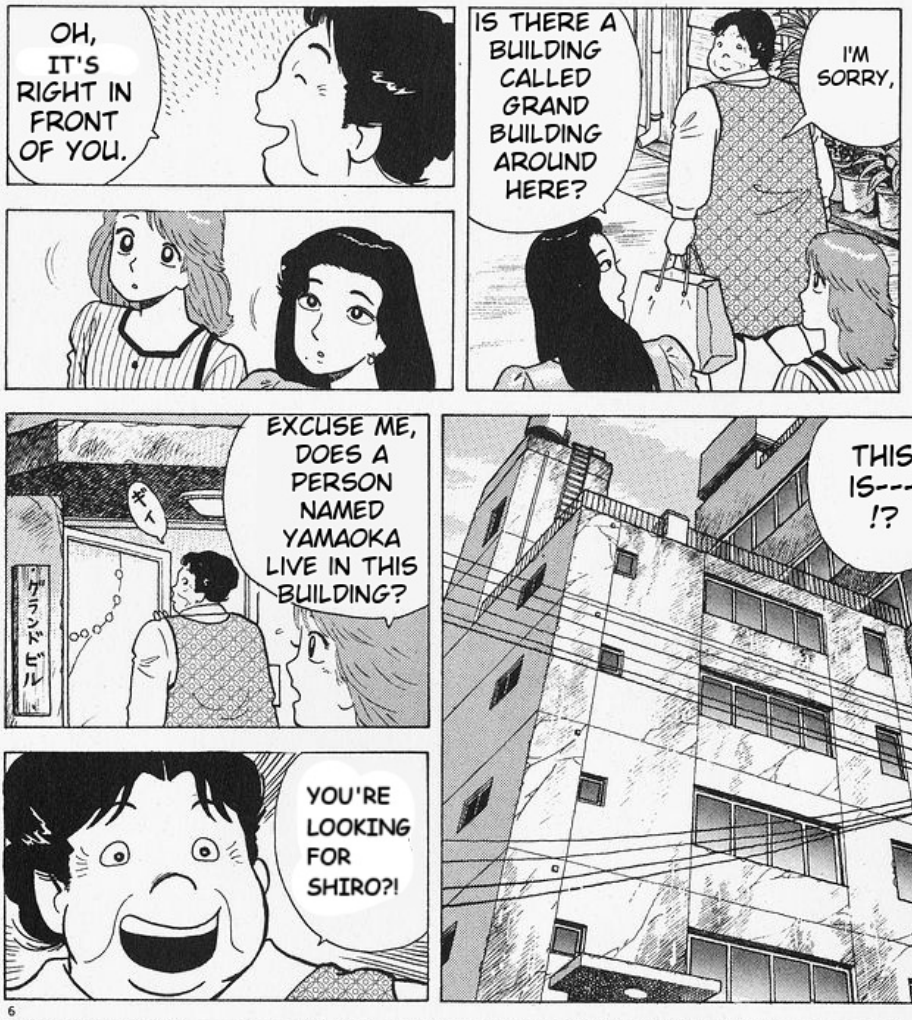
IF WE'RE GOING TO YAMAOKA-SAN'S HOUSE, KURITA-SAN WILL GUIDE US.
MARIKO-SAN!
HUH...?
EXCUSE ME.
YES... I NEED TO HURRY UP AND ARRANGE THE NEXT 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' MEETING...
OH, ARE YOU GOING TO YAMAOKA-SAN'S HOUSE?
4
LET'S GO! THE ADDRESS IS LISTED UNDER THE EMPLOYEE NAMES!
どんっ
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DON'T PLAY DUMB!
KURITA-SAN ALSO NEEDS TO DISCUSS THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' WITH YAMAOKA-SAN.
I DO?

DELICIOUSNESS 21

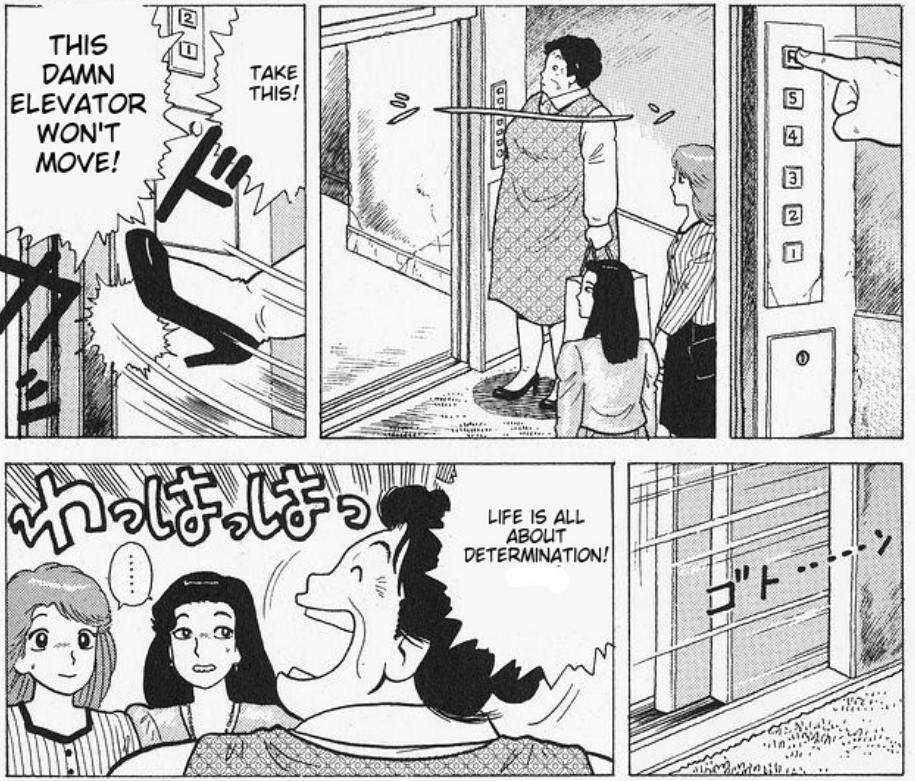


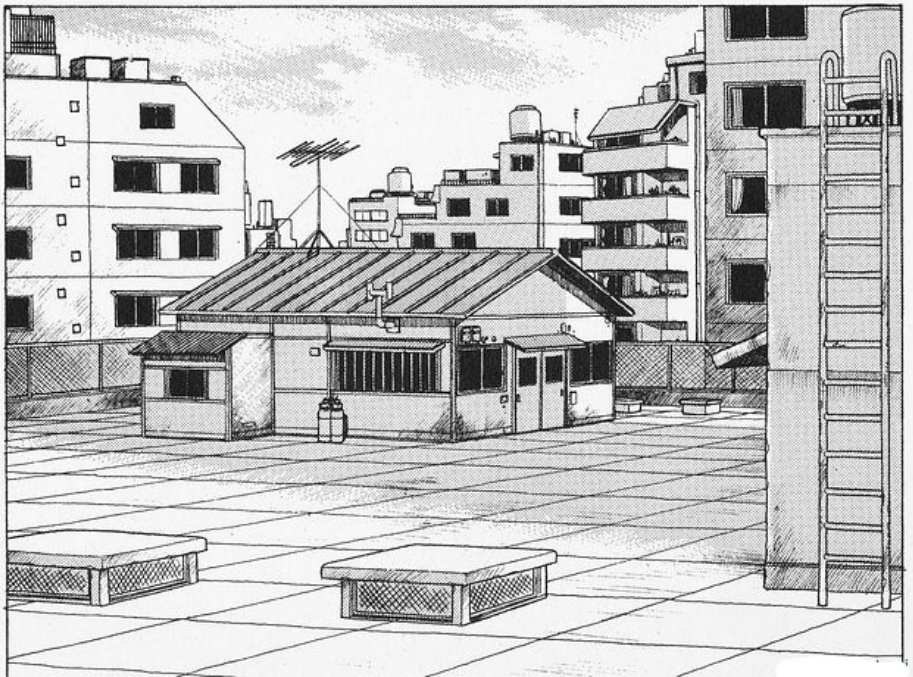





OH, IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
I'M SORRY, IS THERE A BUILDING CALLED GRAND BUILDING AROUND HERE?
EXCUSE ME, DOES A PERSON NAMED YAMAOKA LIVE IN THIS BUILDING?
ギィ
グランドビル
THIS IS---!?
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SHIRO?!
6
UM... WHO ARE YOU...?
I SEE, THEN PLEASE GO AHEAD AND GET ON.

DELICIOUSNESS 21





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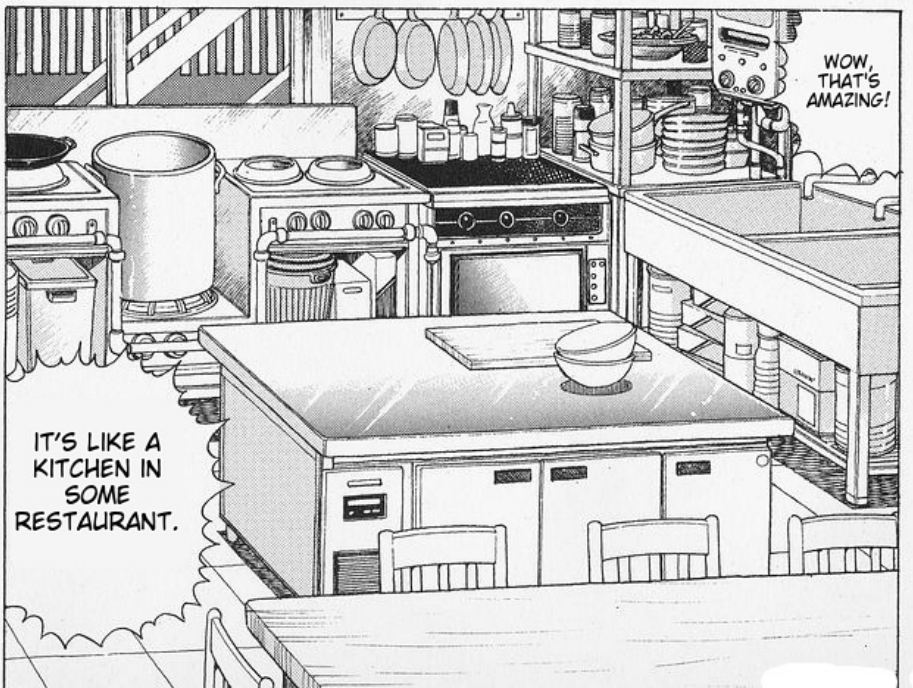
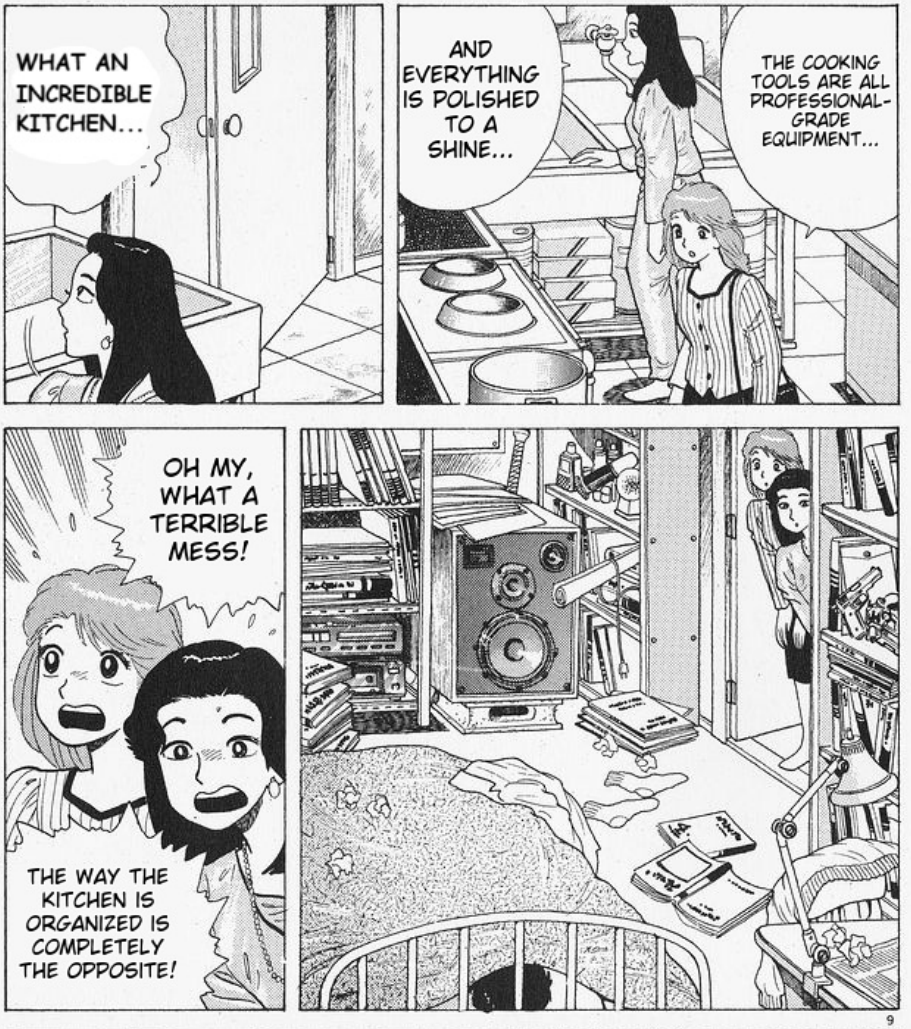
SHIRO, YOU HAVE VISITORS!
Y-YEAH...
COME ON IN!
山岡

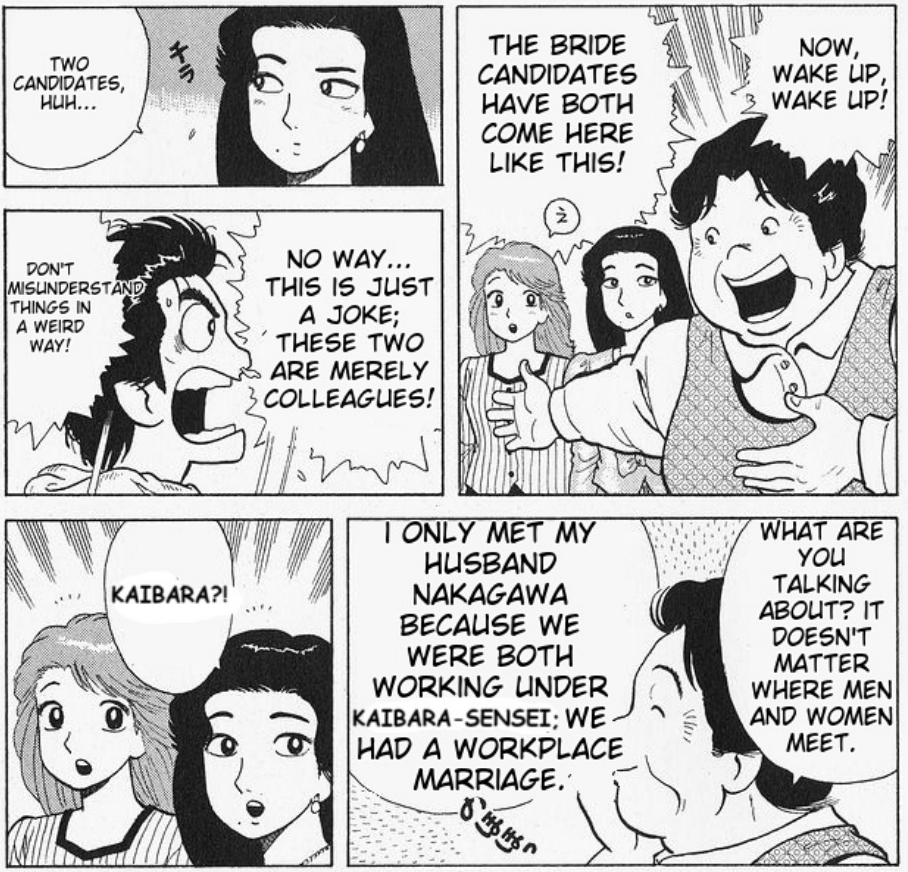

WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!
IT'S LIKE A KITCHEN IN SOME RESTAURANT.

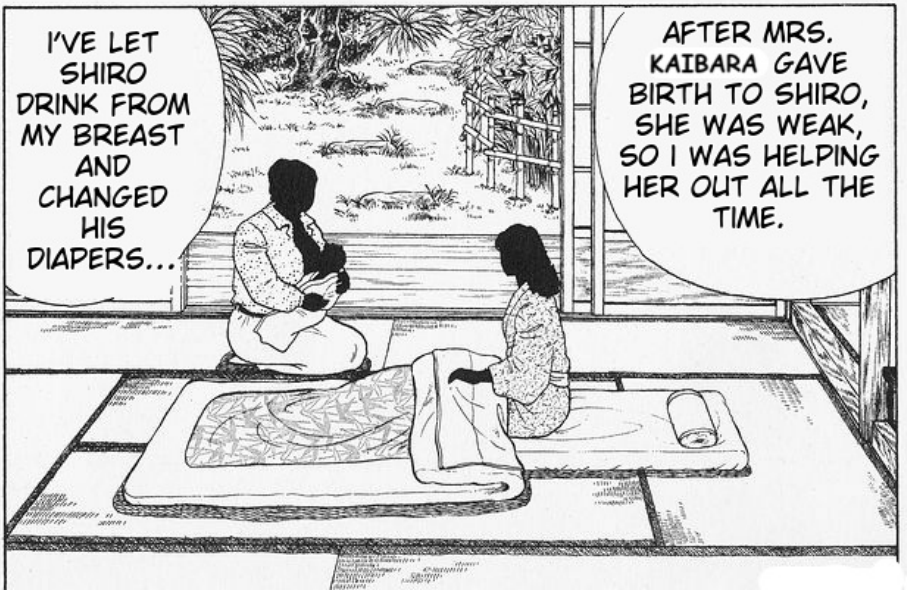
DELICIOUSNESS 21



JUST GO HOME, LET ME REST QUIETLY!
IF A VISIT CAN CURE AN ILLNESS, WE WOULDN'T NEED DOCTORS.
BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU LADIES?
I HEARD YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL, SO I CAME TO VISIT.
OH DEAR... I THOUGHT YOU WERE HAVING A WORK MEETING...
WHAT!
SO, ARE YOU YAMAOKA'S SUBSTITUTE...?!
SO, YOU MUST BE THE ONE I TALKED TO ON THE PHONE!
OH, IS THAT SO?
I'M A COLLEAGUE OF YAMAOKA'S, FROM THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER...
10
OH MY! STOP IT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
カ〃〃
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SLEEPING, WAKE UP!
HMM...

DELICIOUSNESS 21



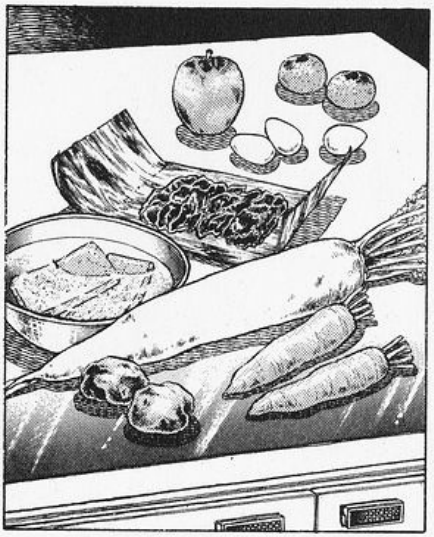


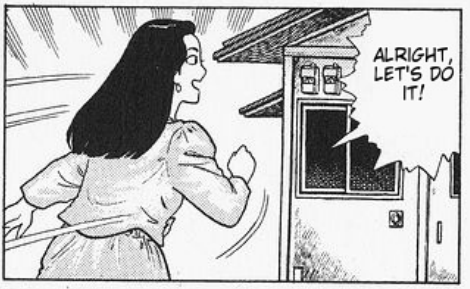
SO EVEN NOW, I'M WORRIED ABOUT SHIRO AND COME TO CHECK ON HIM FROM TIME TO TIME.
I CAME OVER TODAY BECAUSE I HAD A FEELING SOMETHING WAS UP, AND LOOK AT YOU, YOU SEEM TO BE ON THE VERGE OF DYING FROM A COLD?!
IF YOU COULD JUST HURRY UP AND GET YOURSELF A BRIDE, I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER...
YOU'RE SO NOISY...
SO SHIRO, YOU CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE WITH TWO LOVELY LADIES PASS YOU BY!
JUST PICK ONE OF THEM AND MAKE HER YOURS!
わあっはっはっ
YES, DEFIN-ITELY.
MAKE HER YOURS, YOU SAY...?
I'M JUST ABOUT TO MAKE A MEAL FOR SHIRO.
PLEASE, ENJOY YOUR MEAL TOGETHER.

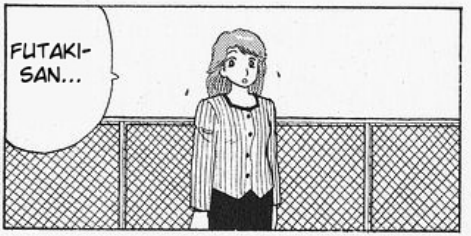
12

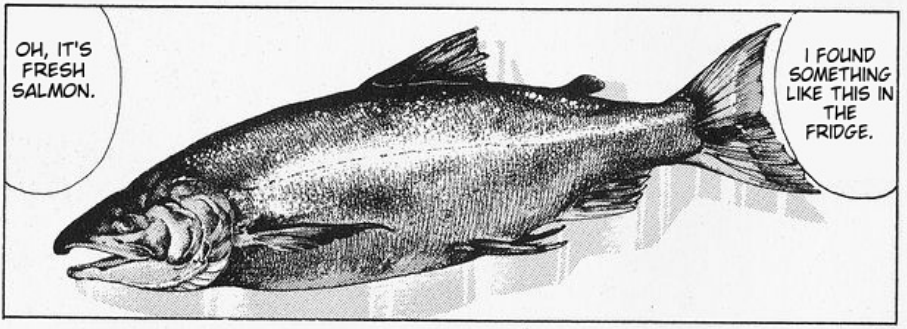
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE!
UH, NO...
UM, WE...
火事だぁぁぁ
THE FIRE HAS JUST STARTED!
IT'S THE PRINTING FACTORY ACROSS THE STREET!
13
THIS IS SERIOUS!
ガラ
WHAT? THERE'S A FIRE?!

I'LL HELP TOO!
OH, YAMAOKA -SAN!
ダァ
EH? WHY?
WAIT!
AFTER THE FIREFIGHTING, IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE HELPFUL TO PREPARE SOME WARM FOOD FOR THOSE WHO HELPED AND FOR THE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE FIRE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
THE YOUNG LADIES WON'T BE OF ANY HELP IN FIREFIGHTING.
HOW RUDE...
HEY, DON'T JUST ASSUME I'M A CANDIDATE FOR YAMAOKA'S BRIDE!
LET'S SEE HOW WELL SHIRO'S POTENTIAL BRIDE PERFORMS!
DO YOUR BEST AND MAKE SOMETHING DELICIOUS!
14
THAT CHIYO PERSON SEEMS TO HAVE A STRONG INFLUENCE OVER YAMAOKA...

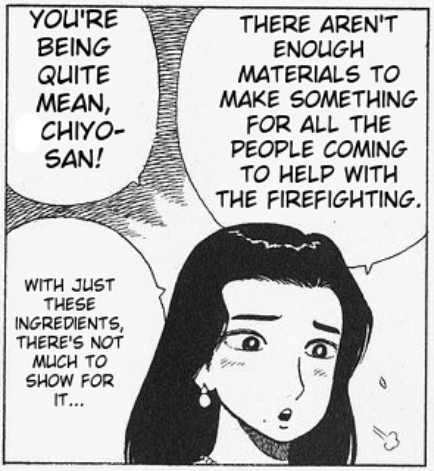



ALRIGHT, LET'S DO IT!


FUTAKI-SAN...


OH, IT'S FRESH SALMON.
I FOUND SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN THE FRIDGE.

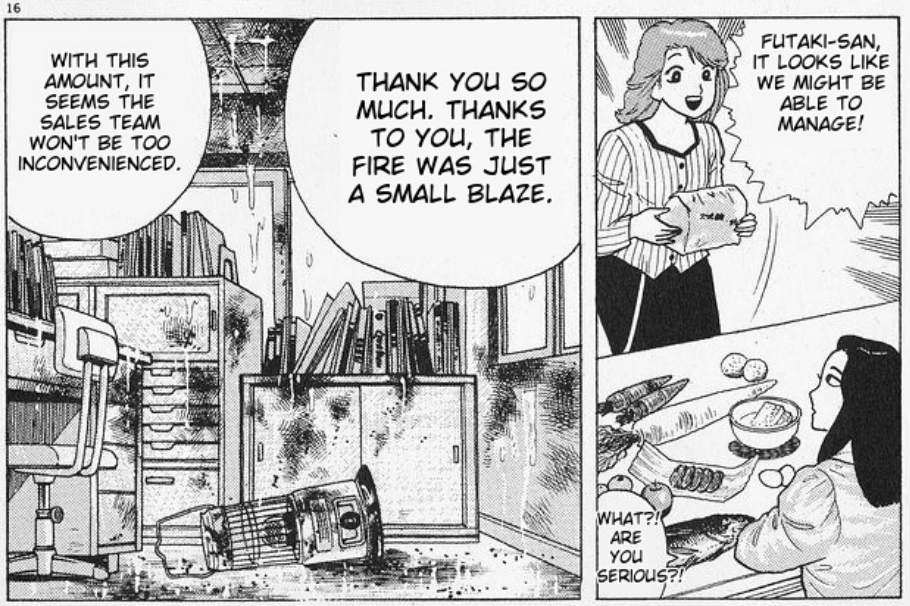
15


YOU'RE BEING QUITE MEAN, CHIYO-SAN!
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH MATERIALS TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR ALL THE PEOPLE COMING TO HELP WITH THE FIREFIGHTING.
WITH JUST THESE INGREDIENTS, THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SHOW FOR IT...

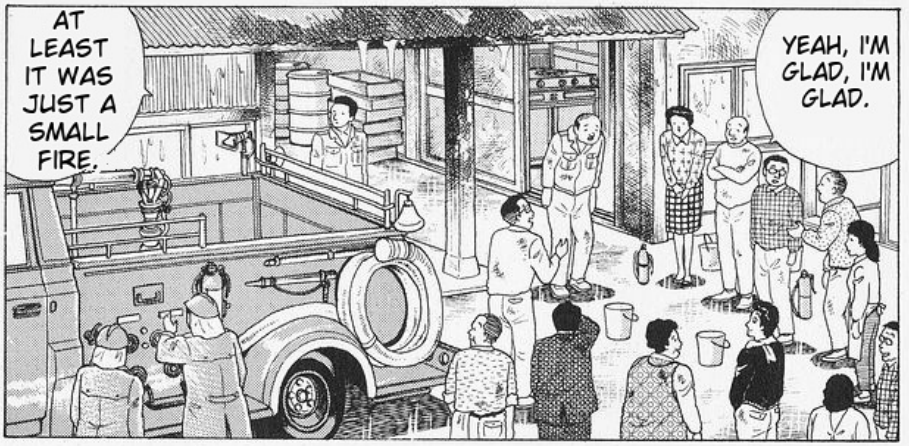
BUT... EVEN IF I STIR-FRY THE MEAT AND VEGETABLES, OR GRILL THE SALMON,
WITH JUST THESE INGREDIENTS, WE CAN ONLY MAKE A LIMITED AMOUNT.

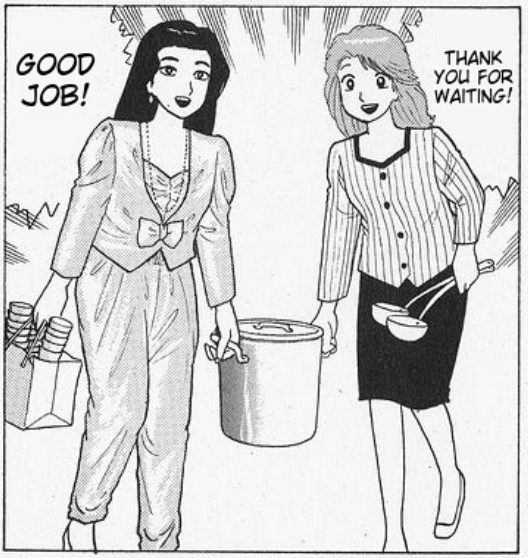
OH MY... WHAT COULD THIS BE?!
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE...
THIS IS TROUBLING, ISN'T IT?
DAIGIN-SANKASU.

16

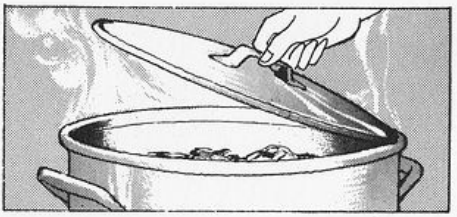

WITH THIS AMOUNT, IT SEEMS THE SALES TEAM WON'T BE TOO INCONVENIENCED.
THANK YOU SO MUCH. THANKS TO YOU, THE FIRE WAS JUST A SMALL BLAZE.
FUTAKI-SAN, IT LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MANAGE!
WHAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

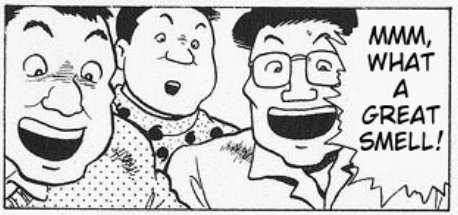
DELICIOUSNESS 21



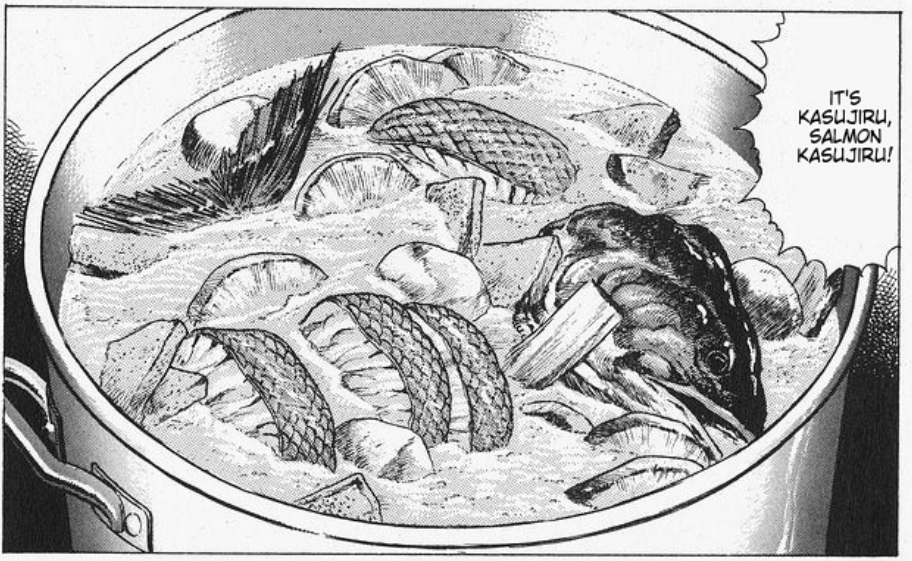


MY TONGUE IS BURNING!
WOW, THIS IS GREAT!
MMM! THIS MYSTERIOUS SWEETNESS IS SOMETHING ELSE!
IT'S SWEET AND HOT, SO IT TAKES AWAY FATIGUE AND ALSO PREVENTS COLDS.
HERE YOU GO, IT'S AMAZAKE.
ワイ
ワイ
DARN IT! THOSE TWO FOUND THE PREMIUM SAKE LEES I WAS SAVING.
18
I REALLY WANT SOMETHING WARM TO EAT...
WHEN I FEEL ENERGIZED, MY STOMACH STARTS TO GROWL.
WITH JUST THAT, SUCH A WONDERFUL AMAZAKE CAN BE MADE, IT'S TRULY APPRECIATED.
DISSOLVE SAKE LEES IN WATER, BOIL IT, ADD PLENTY OF SUGAR, AND A PINCH OF SALT FOR A SECRET FLAVOR.
THE FRAGRANT AROMA OF THE SAKE IS IRRESISTIBLE.
MY BODY IS WARMING UP...



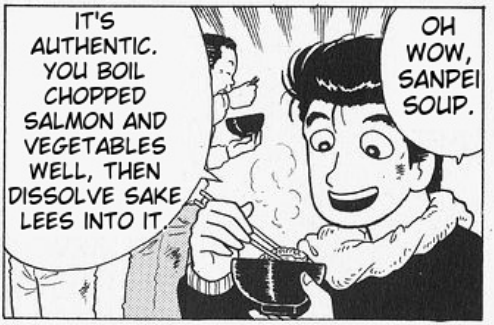

MMM, WHAT A GREAT SMELL!

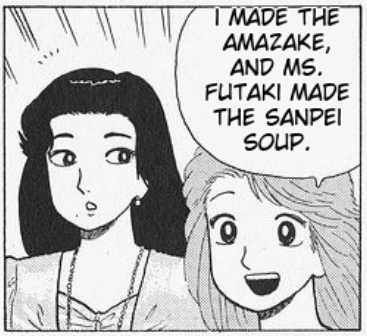
PLEASE EAT PLENTY!
NEXT UP AFTER SWEET SAKE IS THIS!

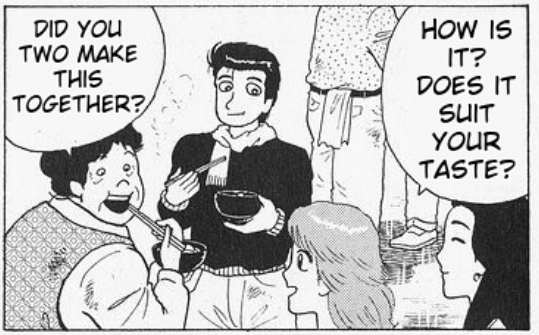

IT'S KASUJIRU, SALMON KASUJIRU!

19

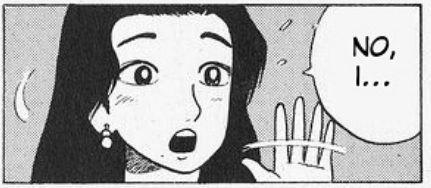
THE KONJAC IS PROPERLY TORN BY HAND.
POTATOES, CARROTS, DAIKON...


IT'S AUTHENTIC. YOU BOIL CHOPPED SALMON AND VEGETABLES WELL, THEN DISSOLVE SAKE LEES INTO IT.
OH WOW, SANPEI SOUP.


I MADE THE AMAZAKE, AND MS. FUTAKI MADE THE SANPEI SOUP.

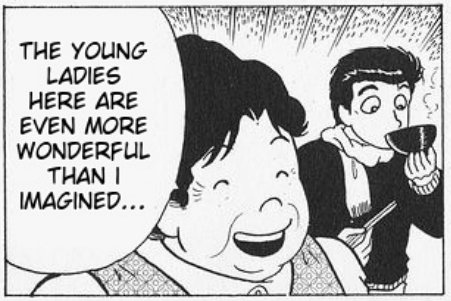

DID YOU TWO MAKE THIS TOGETHER?
HOW IS IT? DOES IT SUIT YOUR TASTE?

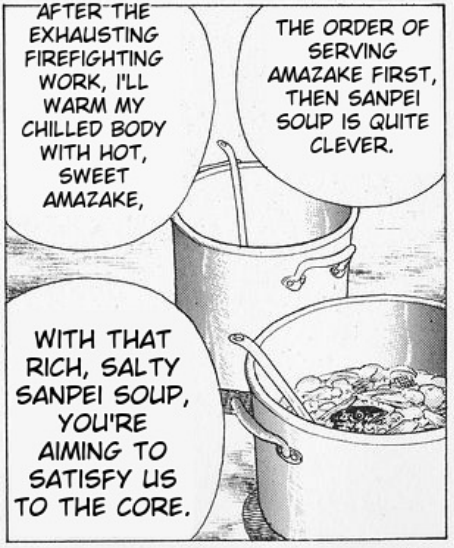
WITH SOUP, WE CAN EASILY SERVE A LOT OF PEOPLE AT ONCE.
IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT? TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITH JUST THOSE INGREDIENTS.


NO, I...

HMM... I SEE...
.....

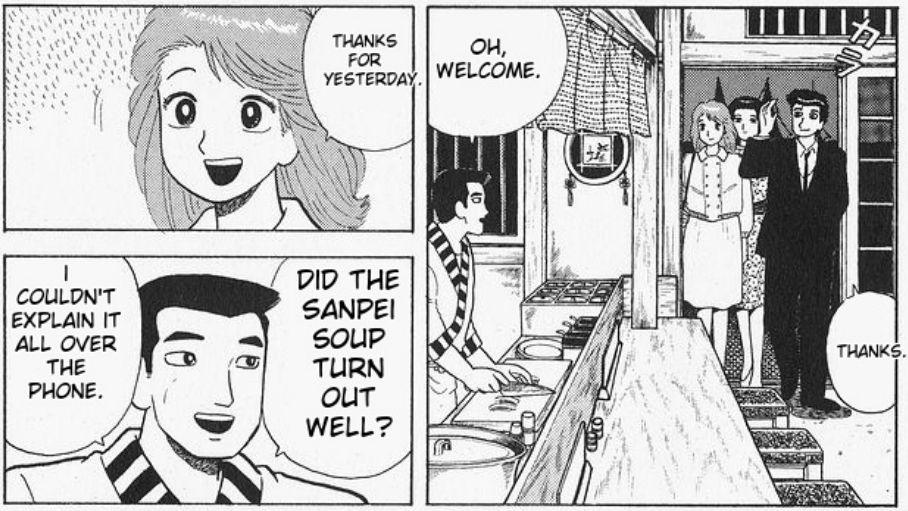
I'M TRULY IMPRESSED...
THE DASHI IS PROPERLY MADE WITH KOMBU TOO.

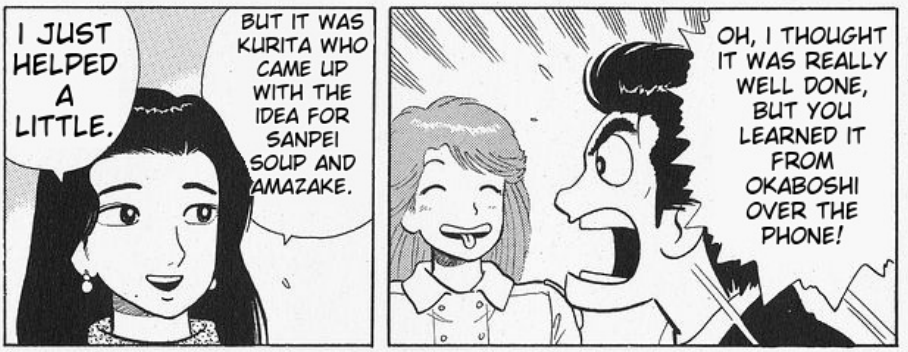

THE YOUNG LADIES HERE ARE EVEN MORE WONDERFUL THAN I IMAGINED...


AFTER THE EXHAUSTING FIREFIGHTING WORK, I'LL WARM MY CHILLED BODY WITH HOT, SWEET AMAZAKE,
THE ORDER OF SERVING AMAZAKE FIRST, THEN SANPEI SOUP IS QUITE CLEVER.
WITH THAT RICH, SALTY SANPEI SOUP, YOU'RE AIMING TO SATISFY US TO THE CORE.

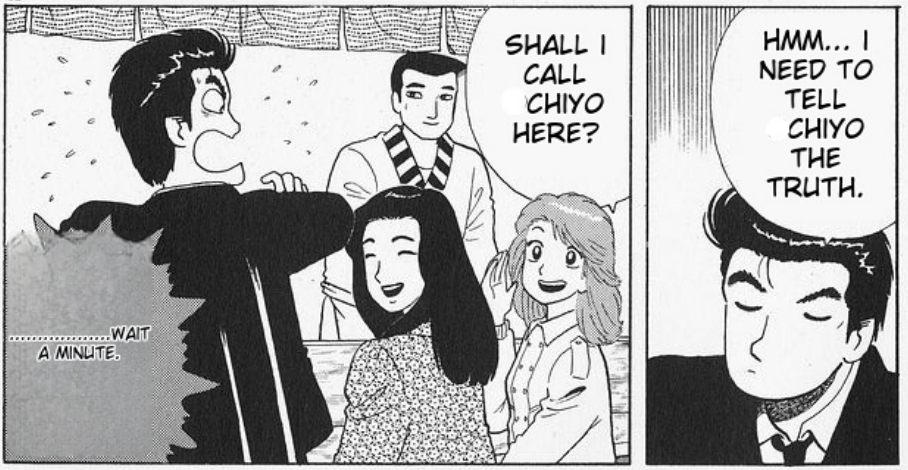
DELICIOUSNESS 21

21

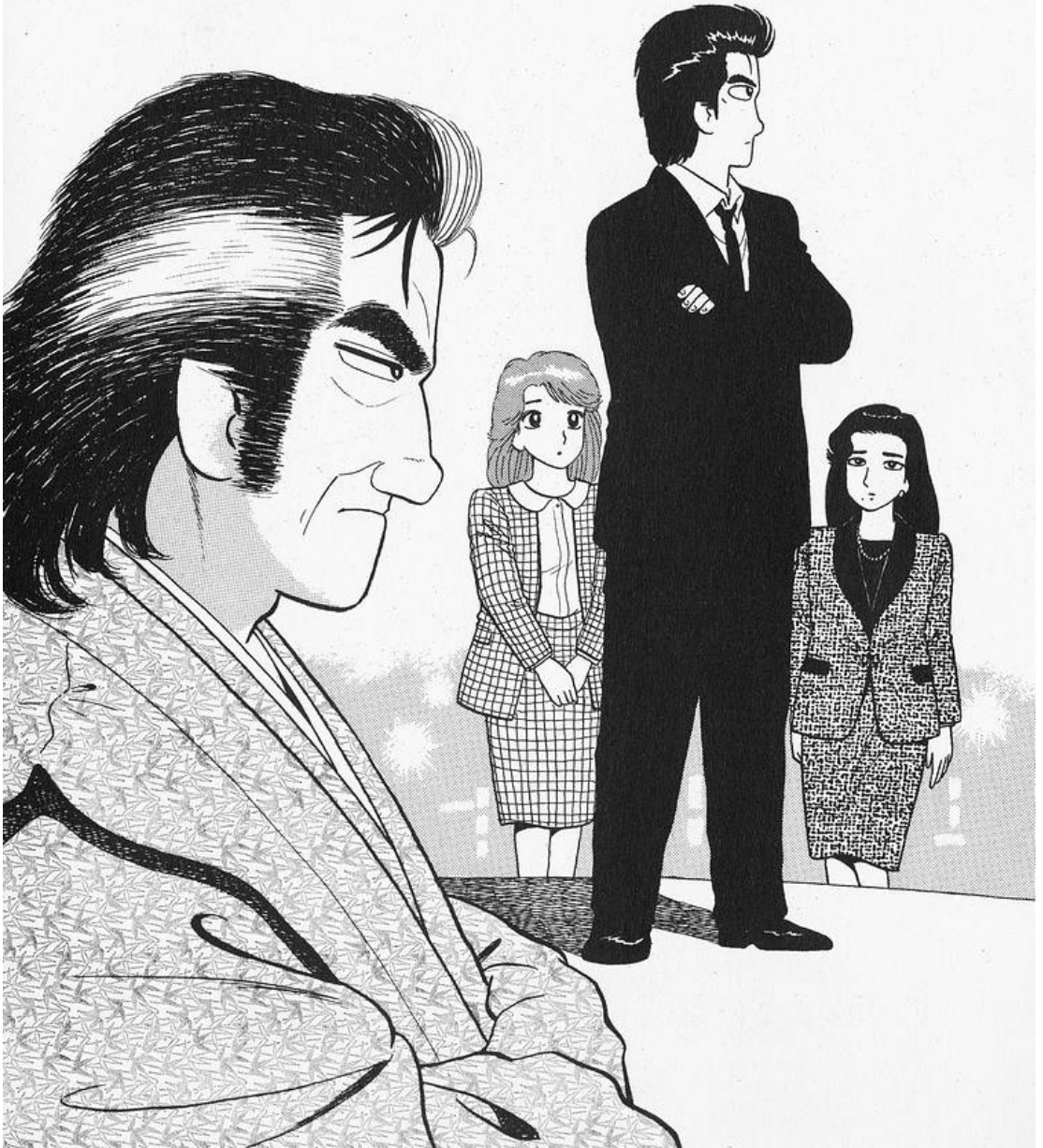

THANKS FOR YESTERDAY.
OH, WELCOME.
カニ
THANKS...
I COULDN'T EXPLAIN IT ALL OVER THE PHONE.
DID THE SANPEI SOUP TURN OUT WELL?


I JUST HELPED A LITTLE.
BUT IT WAS KURITA WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR SANPEI SOUP AND AMAZAKE.
OH, I THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY WELL DONE, BUT YOU LEARNED IT FROM OKABOSHI OVER THE PHONE!

22

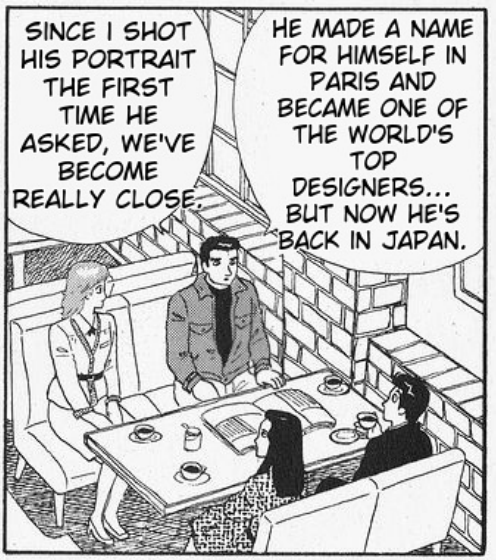

SHALL I CALL CHIYO HERE?
.....WAIT A MINUTE.
HMM... I NEED TO TELL CHIYO THE TRUTH.

第8話
日本の根っこ



FULL REPORT -PARIS FASHION
OH MY! IT'S THE FASHION DESIGNER HIDEO HIRAO.
HIDE HIRAO
'89 春夏

HMM... SO WHAT ABOUT THIS GUY?


SINCE I SHOT HIS PORTRAIT THE FIRST TIME HE ASKED, WE'VE BECOME REALLY CLOSE.
HE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN PARIS AND BECAME ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP DESIGNERS... BUT NOW HE'S BACK IN JAPAN.

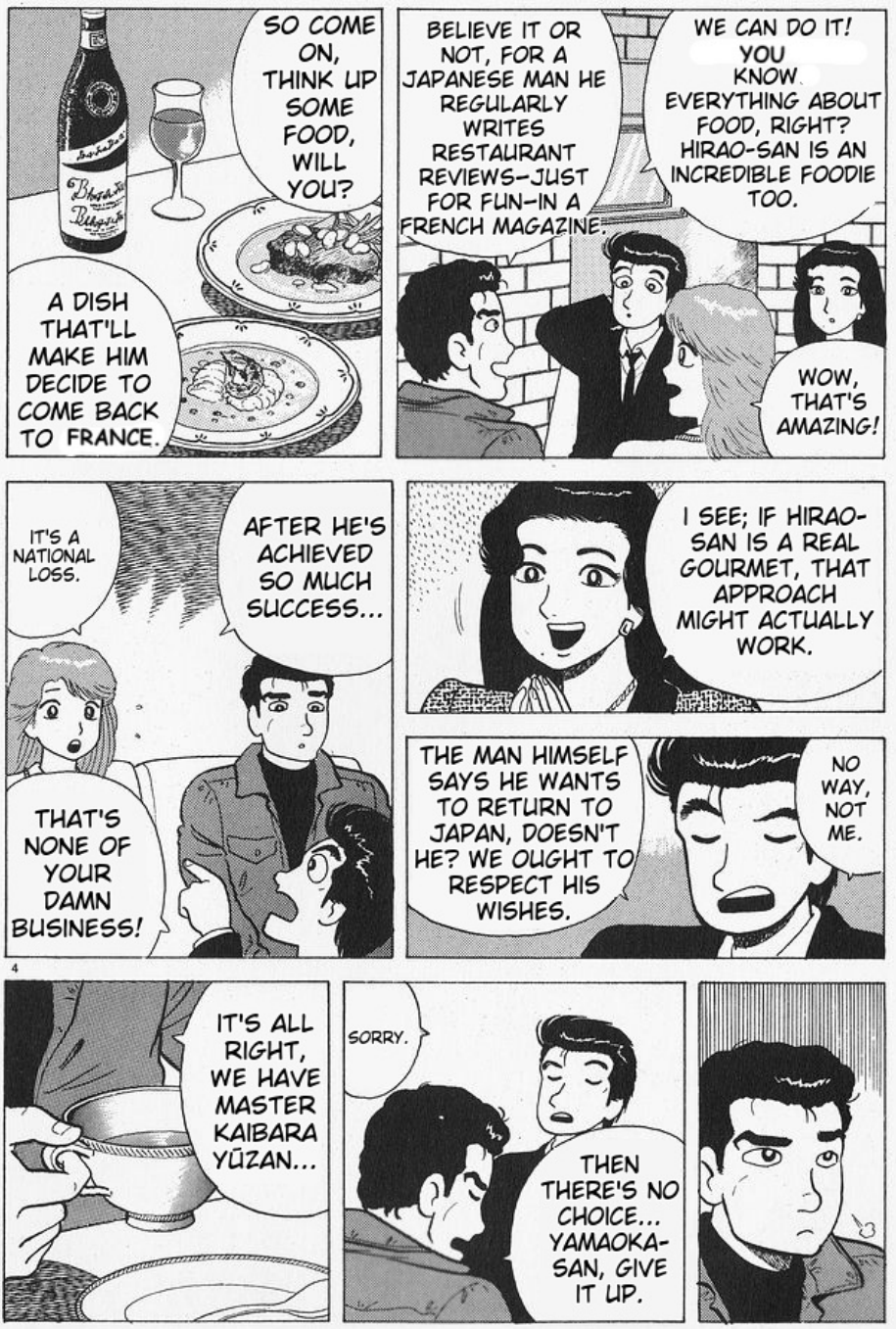
HE SAYS HE NEVER WANTS TO GO BACK...
I'M TELLING YOU, HE SAYS HE WON'T GO BACK TO PARIS.

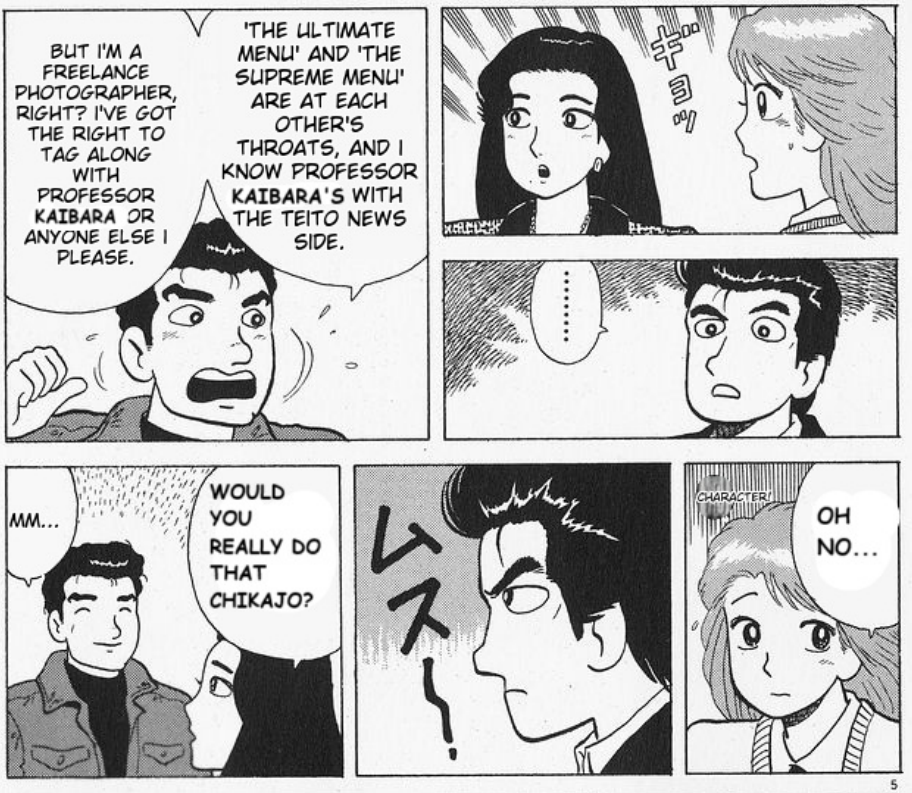
2

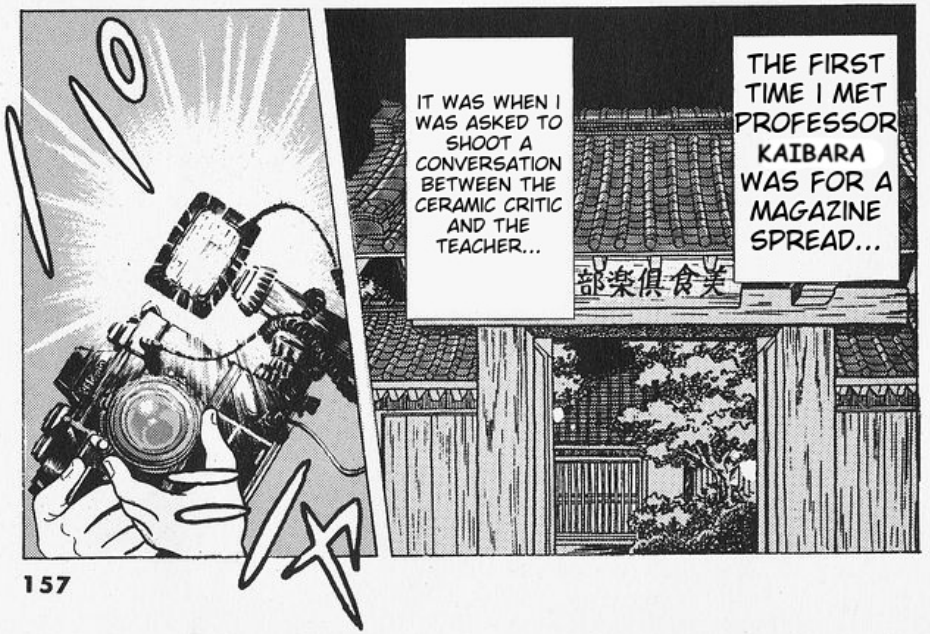
BUT IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? HE'S ALREADY FAMOUS ENOUGH IN PARIS; HE SHOULD JUST LIVE IN JAPAN FROM NOW ON.

WHY NOT?

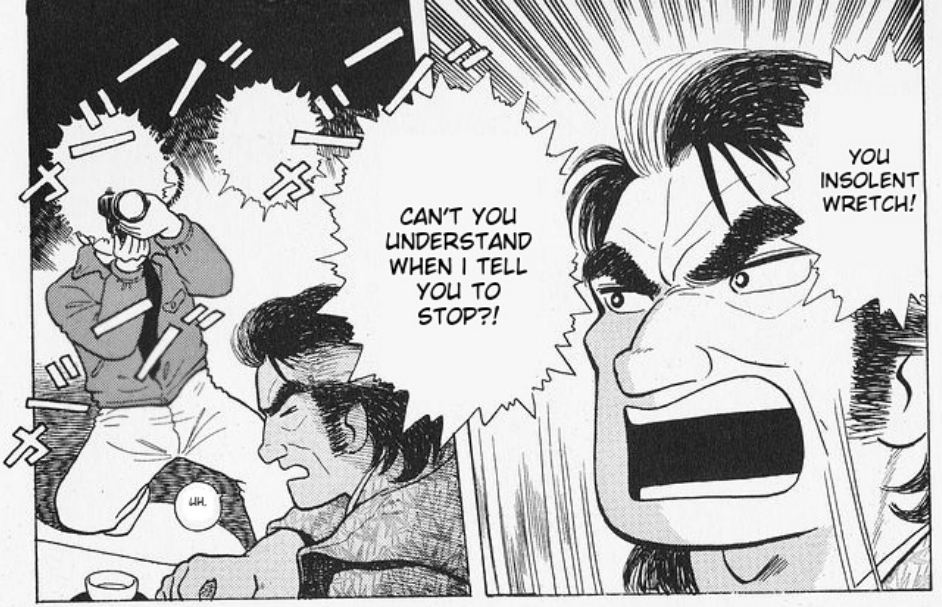
BY REFUSING TO RETURN TO PARIS, IT SEEMS MR. HIRAO WOULD BE GIVING UP ON HIS CAREER AS A DESIGNER.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
HIRAO OWNS SEVERAL FASHION-RELATED COMPANIES IN BALI. THEY'RE ALL PERSONALLY RUN, SO IF HE'S NOT THERE TO LEAD THEM, EVERY LAST ONE WILL COLLAPSE.
WELL, YOU SEE, HE CAN'T JUST ABANDON PARIS...
PARIS
HIDE HIRAO
MR. HIRAO IS GOING TO END UP SADDLED WITH ENORMOUS DEBTS...
WAIT-HE'S GOING TO RETIRE AS A DESIGNER?!
HE'S LIVED IN PARIS FOR NEARLY TWENTY YEARS, BUT NOW HE SAYS HE JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
I THINK HIS NERVES ARE SHOT FROM OVERWORK.
SO HE GOT HOMESICK AND CAME BACK TO JAPAN...
3
I WANT TO MAKE MR. HIRAO REMEMBER HOW WONDERFUL AND APPEALING PARIS IS, ONCE MORE.
WHY THE HELL WOULD I BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!?
SO? WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO...?


SO COME ON, THINK UP SOME FOOD, WILL YOU?
A DISH THAT'LL MAKE HIM DECIDE TO COME BACK TO FRANCE.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, FOR A JAPANESE MAN HE REGULARLY WRITES RESTAURANT REVIEWS–JUST FOR FUN–IN A FRENCH MAGAZINE.
WE CAN DO IT! YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT FOOD, RIGHT? HIRAO-SAN IS AN INCREDIBLE FOODIE TOO.
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!
AFTER HE'S ACHIEVED SO MUCH SUCCESS...
IT'S A NATIONAL LOSS.
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS!
I SEE; IF HIRAO-SAN IS A REAL GOURMET, THAT APPROACH MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK.
THE MAN HIMSELF SAYS HE WANTS TO RETURN TO JAPAN, DOESN'T HE? WE OUGHT TO RESPECT HIS WISHES.
NO WAY, NOT ME.
4
IT'S ALL RIGHT, WE HAVE MASTER KAIBARA YŪZAN...
SORRY.
THEN THERE'S NO CHOICE... YAMAOKA-SAN, GIVE IT UP.


BUT I'M A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER, RIGHT? I'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO TAG ALONG WITH PROFESSOR KAIBARA OR ANYONE ELSE I PLEASE.
'THE ULTIMATE MENU' AND 'THE SUPREME MENU' ARE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS, AND I KNOW PROFESSOR KAIBARA'S WITH THE TEITO NEWS SIDE.
ギョッ
……
MM...
WOULD YOU REALLY DO THAT CHIKAJO?
ムスーッ
CHARACTER!
OH NO...
5


THE FIRST TIME I MET PROFESSOR KAIBARA WAS FOR A MAGAZINE SPREAD...
IT WAS WHEN I WAS ASKED TO SHOOT A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CERAMIC CRITIC AND THE TEACHER...
部楽倶食美

TO MY EYE IT'S GAUDY ALMOST TO THE POINT OF VULGARITY...
THAT GARISH SENSE OF COLOR THAT CRAMS TOGETHER PURPLE, GREEN, AND YELLOW-
INDEED.
SO, SENSEI, YOU'RE NOT VERY FOND OF KUTANI WARE?
I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SERVE MY FOOD ON KUTANI WARE...
HEY! YOU'RE RUINING THE STORY-CUT THE FILMING, NOW!


YOU INSOLENT WRETCH!
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHEN I TELL YOU TO STOP?!
UH.

HUH?
WAIT.

YES! THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH.

GRR...

7

THE THING A PHOTOGRAPHER MOST WANTS TO CAPTURE IS A PERSON'S NAKED, TRUE SELF.

WHY?

AH, DO YOU GET IT NOW?
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE TO MAKE ME ANGRY, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU LITTLE...

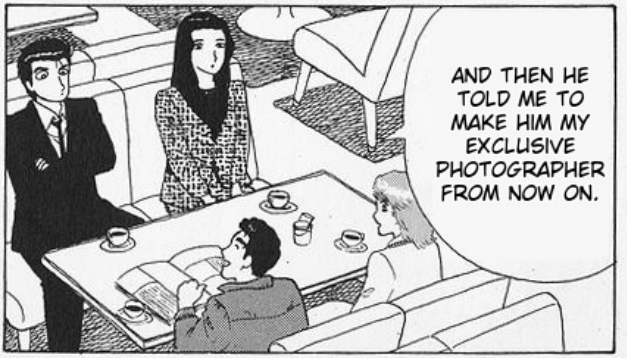
YOUR TRUE NATURE ONLY SHOWED WHEN YOU WERE ANGRY, SO I DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO CAPTURE IT.
WELL, YOU SHOW AN IRONCLAD SELF-RESTRAINT. I FELT THAT I COULD ONLY EITHER MAKE YOU LAUGH OR ENRAGE YOU.

HE LOOKED AT HIS OWN BULGING EYES AND SNARLING EXPRESSION, THEN BURST INTO HEARTY LAUGHTER, CLEARLY DELIGHTED...
A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN I BROUGHT THE PHOTOS PRINTED ON A PANEL TO SHOW HIM,

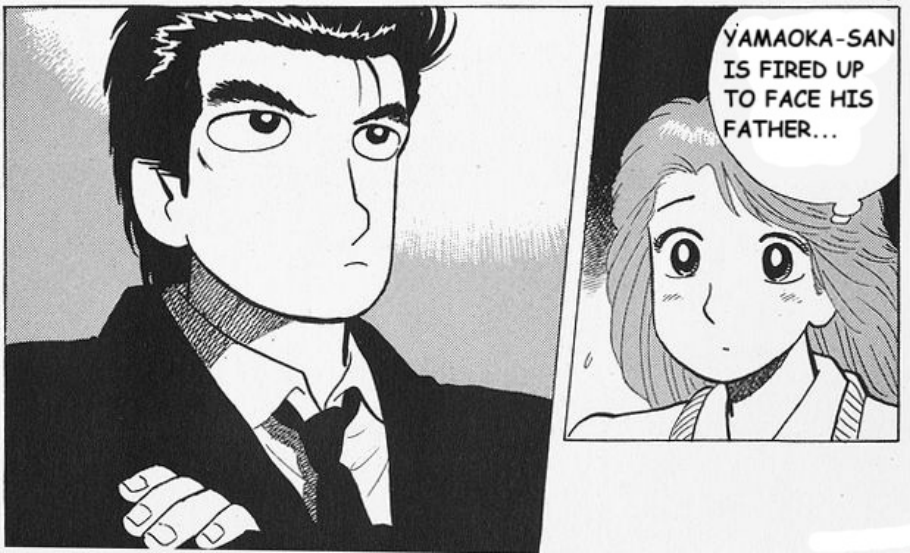
YES, SIR!
BRING THE PHOTOS TO ME THE MOMENT THEY'RE READY, UNDERSTOOD?

8

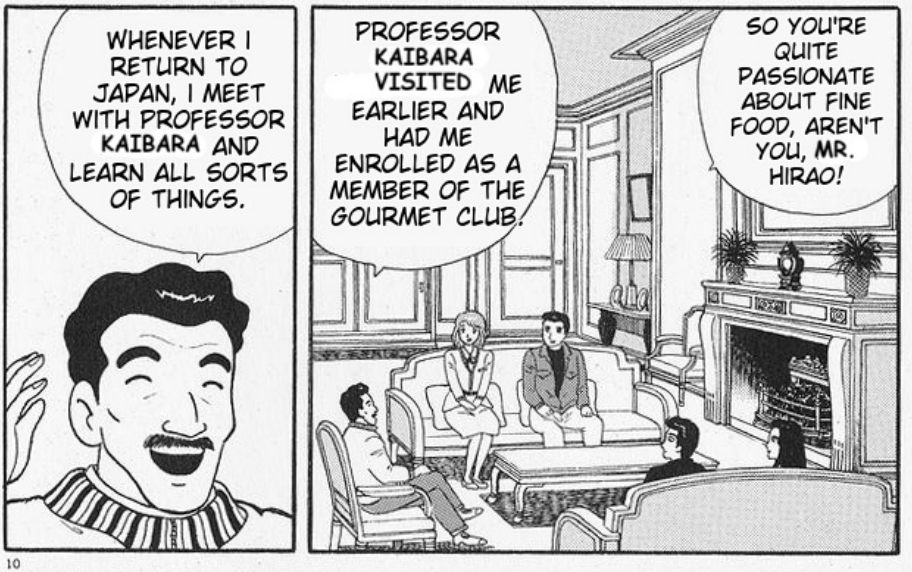
HOW ASTONISHING... I HAD NO IDEA SUCH A THING HAD HAPPENED...


AND THEN HE TOLD ME TO MAKE HIM MY EXCLUSIVE PHOTOGRAPHER FROM NOW ON.

!
KAIBARA YŪZAN IS GOING TO COOK FOR MR. HIRAO?!
SO, WHEN I ASKED MASTER KAIBARA ABOUT MR. HIRAO'S MATTER, HE KINDLY AGREED...
I'LL MAKE SOMETHING MYSELF!
AS IF THAT YŪZAN COULD DO ANYTHING!!
STILL, I WON'T FORCE YOU- MASTER KAIBARA IS ALREADY ON IT.
I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE IF WE LEAVE IT TO MASTER KAIBARA BUT I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO BORROW YAMAOKA-SAN'S STRENGTH AS AN EXTRA SAFETY NET.
IT'S THE SIDE-STORY TO 'ULTIMATE MENU' VERSUS 'SUPREME MENU'!
WHA- THEN IT'S A COOK-OFF WITH MASTER KAIBARA!


YAMAOKA-SAN IS FIRED UP TO FACE HIS FATHER...

I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU.'
Hotel Shin
I SUBSCRIBE TO JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES EVEN IN PARIS, SO...


WHENEVER I RETURN TO JAPAN, I MEET WITH PROFESSOR KAIBARA AND LEARN ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
PROFESSOR KAIBARA VISITED ME EARLIER AND HAD ME ENROLLED AS A MEMBER OF THE GOURMET CLUB.
SO YOU'RE QUITE PASSIONATE ABOUT FINE FOOD, AREN'T YOU, MR. HIRAO!

10

I DO HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY IT...
TO THINK I GET TO TREAT MR. YAMAOKA—WHO'S FACING OFF AGAINST PROFESSOR KAIBARA.—TO SOMETHING DELICIOUS... I'M THRILLED.
WELL...
TO BE SO CLOSE TO PROFESSOR KAIBARA...

GOOD TO SEE YOU, KAIBARA-SAN!
I HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA FOR A GATHERING AT THIS HOTEL, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY MR. HIRAO A VISIT.

SENSEI KAIBARA HAS ARRIVED.
チカ
SIR...

WHY ON EARTH DO I KEEP RUNNING INTO THESE PEOPLE...?
SHIRO'S HERE AGAIN?!

I APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.
SENSEI! THANK YOU FOR COMING!

SE-SENSEI, UM...
?
THAT'S JUST CRUEL.
I'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU BOTH TO PREPARE SOMETHING DELICIOUS....
I ASKED YAMAOKA TO COME.
PLANNING TO KILL MR. HIRAO?
YOU'RE FEEDING US SOMETHING MADE BY HIM?!
OH...?
LET MR. HIRAO BE THE JUDGE, THEN.
WHICH DISH IS POISON -MINE OR YOURS?
I'LL GLADLY TAKE IT. A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'ULTIMATE' AND THE 'SUPREME' IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY.
WELL, WATCHING YOU FLAIL AFTER A PATHETIC FAILURE SHOULD BE HILARIOUS-A PERFECT DISTRACTION FOR HIM!
STILL NOT LEARNED YOUR LESSON? EAGER TO HUMILIATE YOURSELF AGAIN!

MR. YAMAOKA, WAIT...
I'LL THROW THAT LINE RIGHT BACK AT YOU!

CHIKAJO-SAN, THE TRUTH IS...

JUST WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
JUST BECAUSE THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU' ARE AT ODDS...
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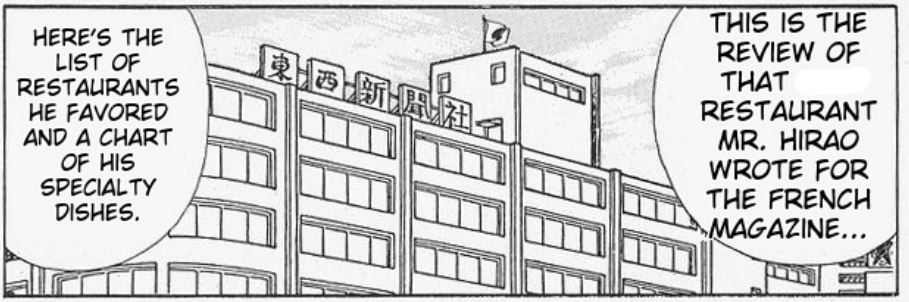
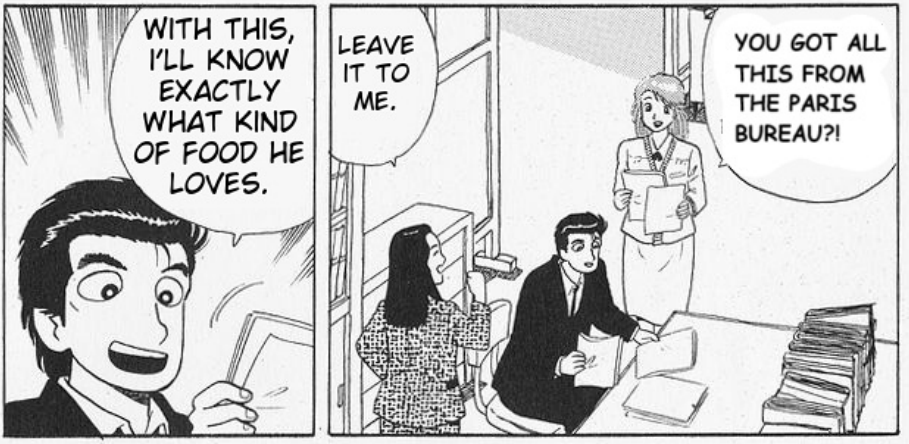
801

THOSE TWO ARE ACTUALLY FATHER AND SON?!
WHAT THE HELL!

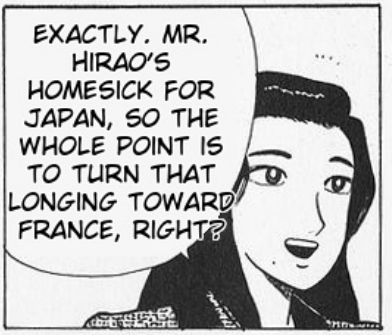
13


HERE'S THE LIST OF RESTAURANTS HE FAVORED AND A CHART OF HIS SPECIALTY DISHES.
東西新聞社
THIS IS THE REVIEW OF THAT RESTAURANT MR. HIRAO WROTE FOR THE FRENCH MAGAZINE...


WITH THIS, I'LL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF FOOD HE LOVES.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
YOU GOT ALL THIS FROM THE PARIS BUREAU?!

THAT'S THE RIGHT ANSWER!
I'M GONNA COOK DISHES THAT'LL MAKE MR. HIRAO MISS PARIS TOO.

WE'RE TAKING HIM ON WITH FRENCH CUISINE...


EXACTLY. MR. HIRAO'S HOMESICK FOR JAPAN, SO THE WHOLE POINT IS TO TURN THAT LONGING TOWARD FRANCE, RIGHT?

14

.....

WELL THEN, WE'LL START WITH THE APPETIZER.
15
OH, FOIE GRAS.
カッ

FOIE GRAS SAUVAGE.
THE AROMA IS CLEAN AND RICH, YET THE AFTERTASTE IS LIGHT...

...THIS IS!

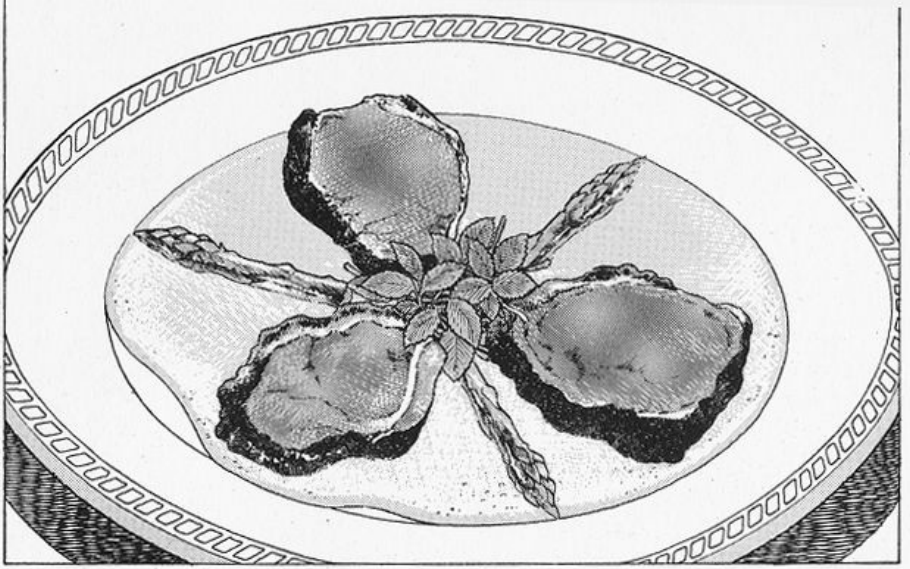
I'VE HAD IT ONCE OR TWICE IN PARIS BEFORE.
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!

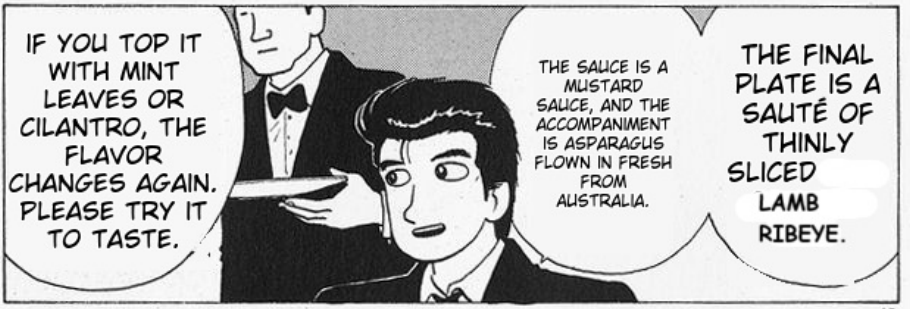
ORDINARY FOIE GRAS IS THE LIVER OF FARM-RAISED DUCKS FORCE-FED CORN, BUT...
THIS IS THE LIVER OF A WILD BIRD OF PREY, NOT RAISED ON A FARM.

AH... IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE DISHES; THE FLAVOR OF THIS SHELLFISH IS JUST...
HOW MANY TIMES I'VE EATEN IT IN PARIS...

...IT'S A PIE OF OYSTERS AND SCALLOP ADDUCTOR MUSCLES.
IT'S LIGHTLY POACHED IN FISH STOCK, THEN THICKENED WITH FRESH CREAM AND EGG YOLK, PUT INTO A PIE SHELL, AND LIGHTLY BAKED.

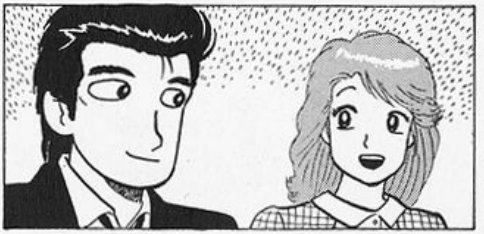
SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL SO FAR.
YOU'RE REALLY GETTING NOSTALGIC FOR PARIS!




IF YOU TOP IT WITH MINT LEAVES OR CILANTRO, THE FLAVOR CHANGES AGAIN. PLEASE TRY IT TO TASTE.
THE SAUCE IS A MUSTARD SAUCE, AND THE ACCOMPANIMENT IS ASPARAGUS FLOWN IN FRESH FROM AUSTRALIA.
THE FINAL PLATE IS A SAUTÉ OF THINLY SLICED LAMB RIBEYE.

17

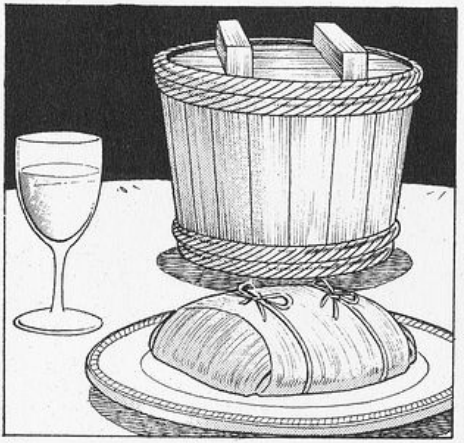
WITH THIS, MR. HIRAO, I'M DYING TO GET BACK TO PARIS!
I'M SO GLAD— TOTAL SUCCESS!



THESE DAYS, PARIS IS CRAZY FOR VIETNAMESE FOOD. THE SCENT OF MINT AND CILANTRO IS EVERYWHERE, AND FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO DOESN'T KNOW VIETNAM, IT'S—
HEH-HEH-HEH... MINT, YOU SAY...
RATHER, IT REMINDS ME OF PARIS.
ガツ

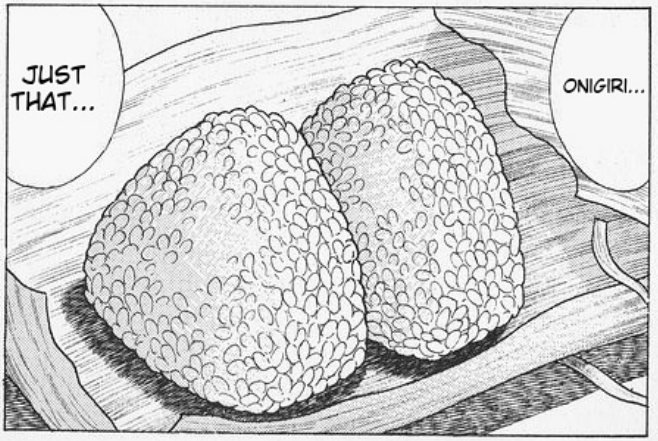
EH!?
W-WAIT A MINUTE...!
WH-WHAT?!

THERE'S NO NEED TO GO BACK TO PARIS.
STILL... IF WE CAN ENJOY FRENCH CUISINE THIS DELICIOUS IN TOKYO-



THEN ALLOW ME TO SERVE YOU WHAT I'VE PREPARED.
ニヤニ

18


JUST THAT...
ONIGIRI...

THIS IS...?
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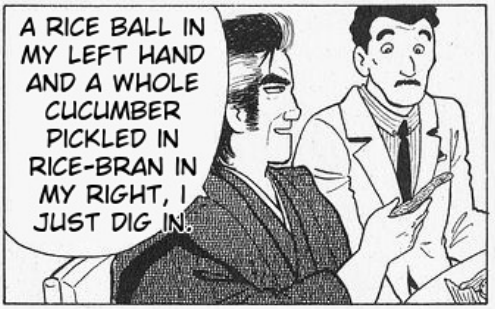
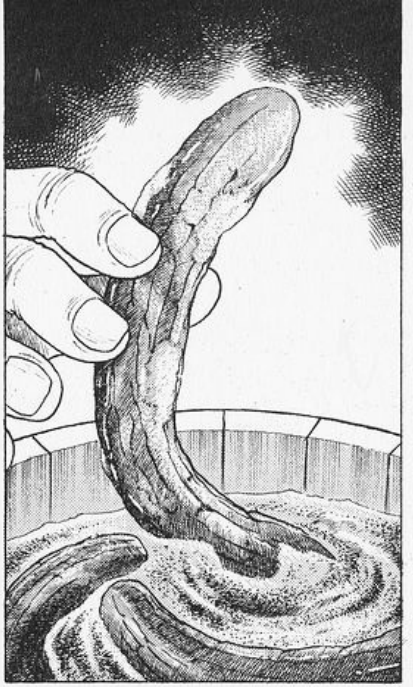
OISHINBO 2

チャプ


A RICE BALL IN MY LEFT HAND AND A WHOLE CUCUMBER PICKLED IN RICE-BRAN IN MY RIGHT, I JUST DIG IN.



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.....

THAT CHILLED RICE BALL AND THE PICKLE ARE A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!
バク
バリボリ
WHO KNEW CHOMPING DOWN ON AN ENTIRE CUCUMBER PICKLED IN RICE-BRAN COULD TASTE THIS GOOD ーー!
うほほーっ
バクボリ

AMBROSIA ITSELF-!
A-HA-HA-! TO THINK PLAIN WATER COULD TASTE THIS GOOD-!

IT'S SPRING WATER I DREW FROM DEEP IN THE TANZAWA MOUNTAINS.
FOR THE INTERLUDE, I WANTED YOU TO DRINK WATER.

ゴッ
ゴッ
ゴッ

WATER, RICE, VEGETABLES! THESE ARE THE VERY BEDROCK OF JAPAN'S LAND AND CLIMATE!
MR. KAIBARA THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! YOU'VE LET ME TASTE THE VERY BEDROCK OF WHAT JAPAN IS, JUST AS I WISHED!

I HAVE THE SOLID ROOTS OF JAPAN'S LAND AND CLIMATE WITHIN ME.
BUT NOW EVERY LAST DOUBT INSIDE ME HAS BEEN CUT AWAY.
AS LONG AS THOSE ROOTS ARE FIRM, I CAN STRETCH MY BRANCHES ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AND STILL MAKE FLOWERS BLOOM.

THE WORRY GREW AND GREW UNTIL I COULDN'T STAND IT, AND I FLED BACK TO JAPAN...
DURING THE TWENTY YEARS I SPENT IN PARIS, I STARTED TO FEEL AS IF I'D LOST MY OWN ROOTS.

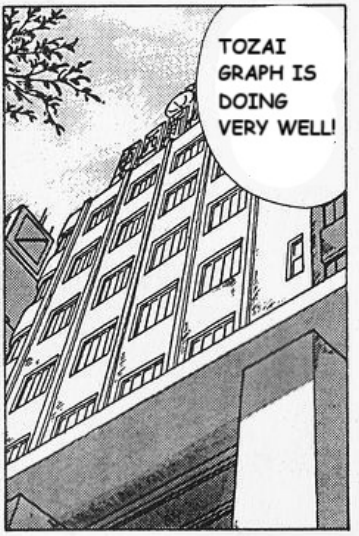
.....
.....
I'M HEADING BACK TO PARIS!
YAMAOKA-SAN, I'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS AS LONG AS I LIVE!
HIRAO-SAN... I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU- DO YOUR BEST OUT THERE.

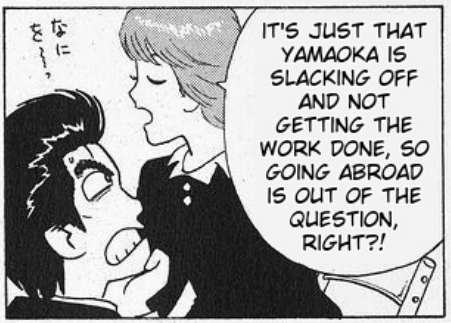
I'M THRILLED! IT'S HIRAO-SAN'S COMEBACK!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE BUSIER THAN EVER FROM NOW ON, HUH!

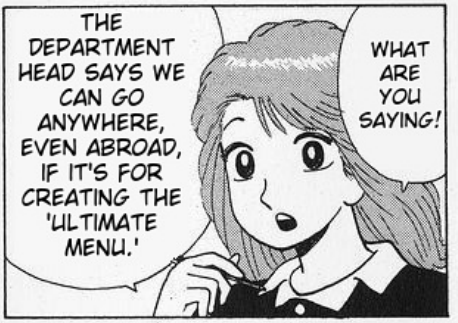
KAIBARA YŪZAN ALWAYS SAYS IT.
COOKING IS ABOUT HOW THOROUGHLY YOU BECOME THE OTHER PERSON'S HEART AND ENTERTAIN IT...
KAIBARA YŪZAN HAD PERFECTLY GRASPED WHAT HIRAO-SAN WAS STRUGGLING WITH...
WE FORGOT TO MAKE THE EFFORT TO SEARCH HIRAO-SAN'S HEART.
MISSING THE CHANCE TO SHOOT THAT REALLY...
.....
AFTER YOU LOST, THE MISERABLE LOOK ON YAMAOKA'S FACE WAS JUST PRICELESS...
DAMN IT! I'M KICKING MYSELF FOR FORGETTING THE CAMERA.
22
YOU BASTARD, I'LL KILL YOU!!!!
ドドドドドドッ

第9話
辛し明太子

IN THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT, GOING ABROAD IS JUST OUT OF THE QUESTION.
WE CAN EVEN GO ABROAD FOR INTERVIEWS WITH 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR.'


TOZAI GRAPH IS DOING VERY WELL!


なにを～？
IT'S JUST THAT YAMAOKA IS SLACKING OFF AND NOT GETTING THE WORK DONE, SO GOING ABROAD IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, RIGHT?!


THE DEPARTMENT HEAD SAYS WE CAN GO ANYWHERE, EVEN ABROAD, IF IT'S FOR CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!

2

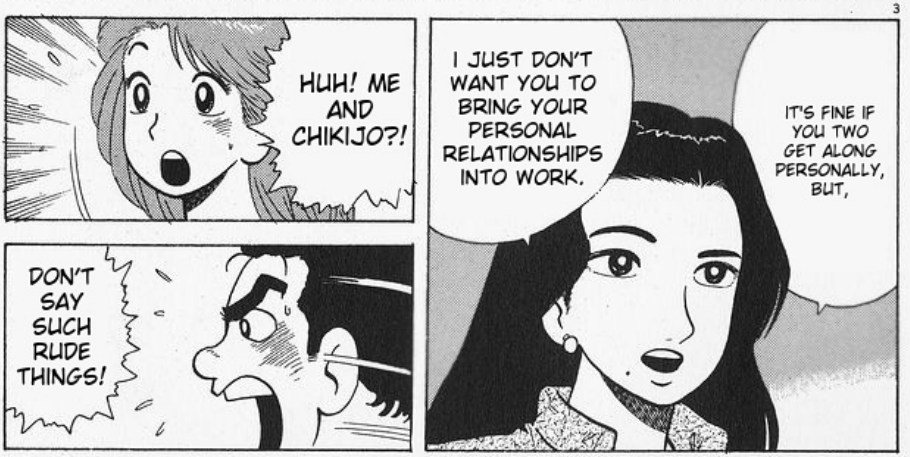
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO A FREELANCER LIKE YOU'RE JUST USING THEM?
WOW, THAT'S SO SLEAZY! WHAT A PATHETIC CORPORATE MENTALITY!

HAHAHA, WELL, KURITA-SAN IS PROBABLY RIGHT.

WE'VE DECIDED TO LOOK FOR OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS...
I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS.

COOKING MASTER 21

3

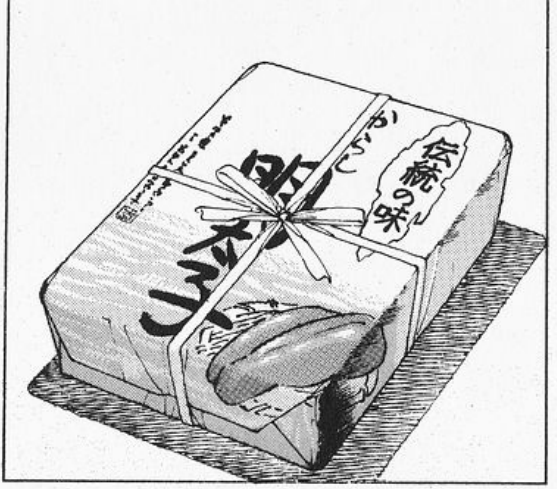


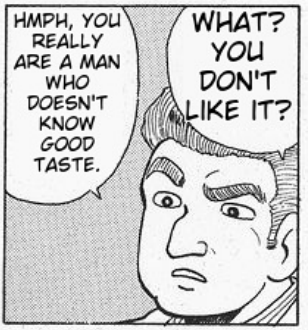
OH.
EH?
IF BOTH OF YOU SAY YOU'RE FINE WITH IT, THEN IT'S JUST AS I SAID.
I DON'T MIND WHATEVER IS SAID, BUT KURITA-SAN WILL BE BOTHERED!
NO, I'M FINE, BUT CHIKIJO-SAN IS...
.....
ガラ
THAT'S NOT IT! THAT'S NOT THE CASE!
OH... IS THAT SO...
4
HM? ...WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS CALLED BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF...
HEY, SORRY FOR BEING LATE.

OH, IT'S ABOUT THAT PHOTO OF THE POLE, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, DIRECTOR KOIZUMI IS QUITE FOND OF YOUR PHOTO.
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
UH-HUH.
SO, WILL YOU MEET HIM WITH ME, CHIKIJO?
HE REALLY WANTS TO MEET YOU.
WHEN I MENTIONED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHER SHOULD BE AT THE COMPANY FOR A MEETING TODAY,
5
DAMN.
シン
BECAUSE THE DIRECTOR WON'T ACT ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY.
IT'S FINE,

THANK YOU.
DO YOUR BEST AND KEEP CREATING MASTERPIECES ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL PHOTOGRAPHER AROUND, 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' IS SURE TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS.
SHABBY PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINES?
WITH THIS, YOU CAN JOIN THE RANKS OF TOP PHOTOGRAPHERS.
UNLIKE THOSE SHABBY PHOTOGRAPHY MAGAZINES, THIS IS THE PRESTIGIOUS 'EAST-WEST GRAPH' AS A PLATFORM FOR PRESENTATION.
6
MY FAVORITE TREAT JUST ARRIVED, SO AS A TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP, I'LL GIVE ONE TO YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT,

COOKING MASTER 21





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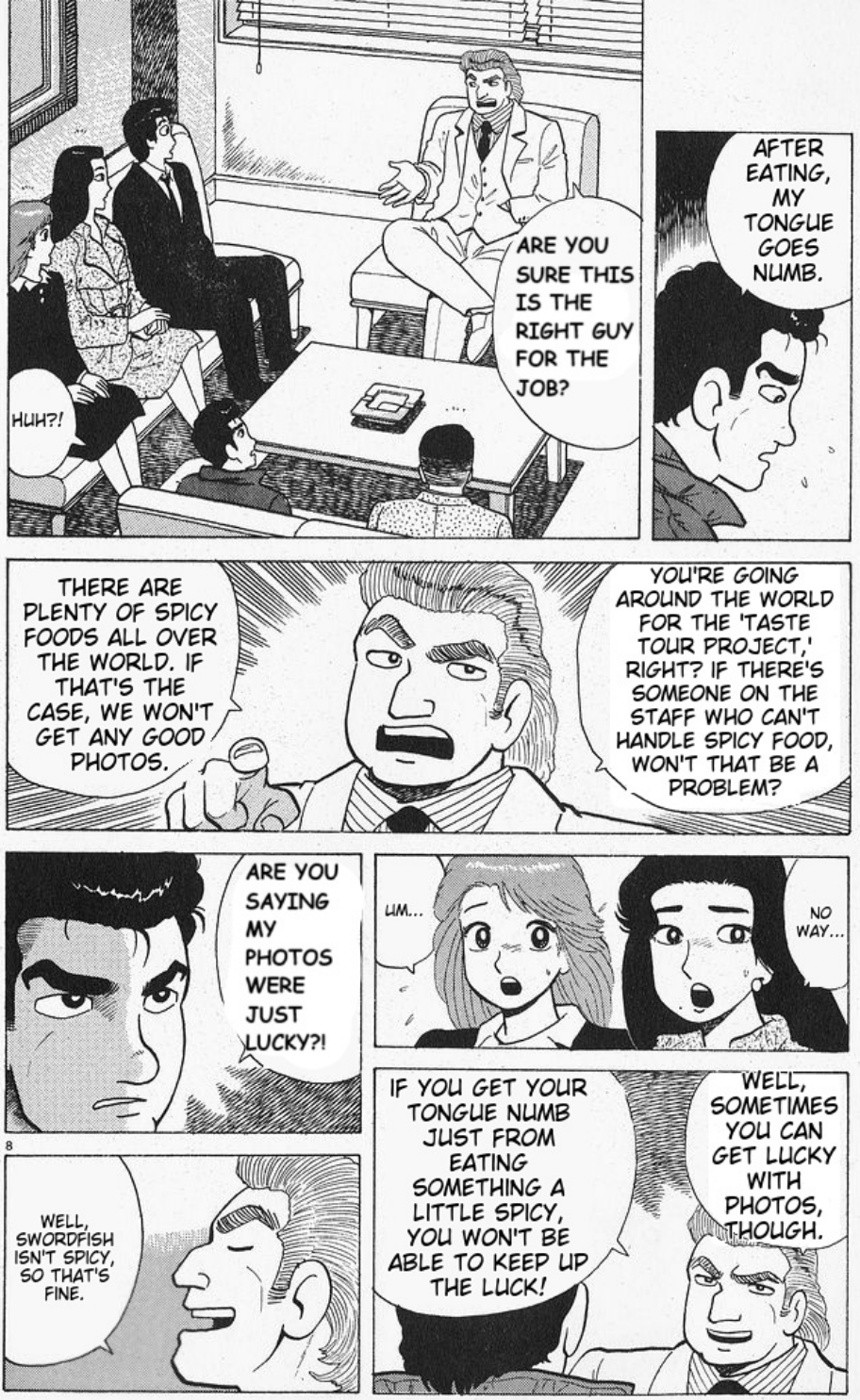
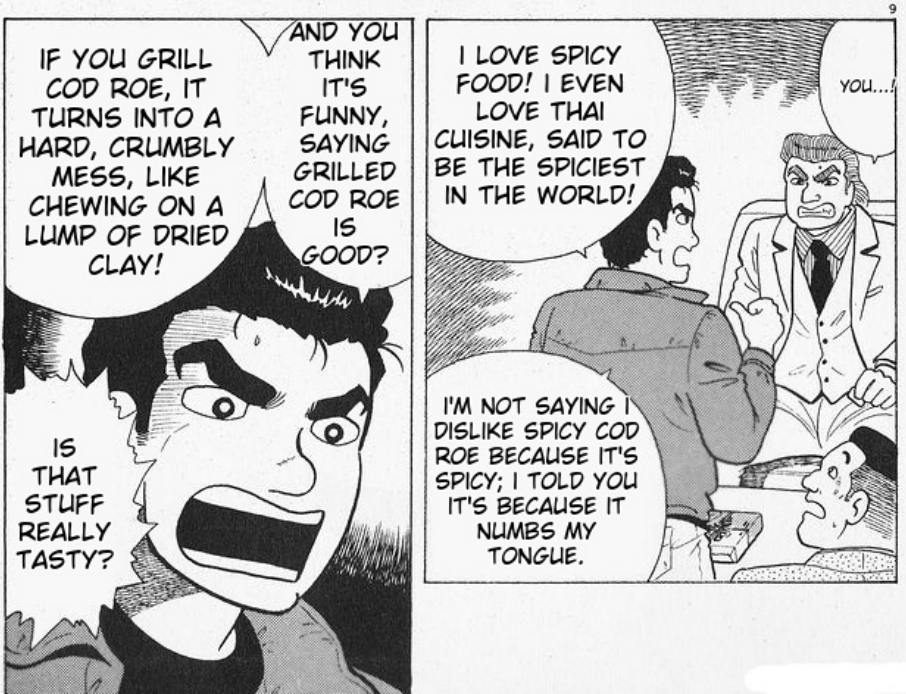
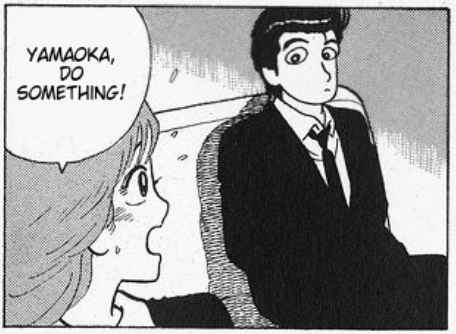

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT GUY FOR THE JOB?
HUH?!
AFTER EATING, MY TONGUE GOES NUMB.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF SPICY FOODS ALL OVER THE WORLD. IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE WON'T GET ANY GOOD PHOTOS.
YOU'RE GOING AROUND THE WORLD FOR THE 'TASTE TOUR PROJECT,' RIGHT? IF THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE STAFF WHO CAN'T HANDLE SPICY FOOD, WON'T THAT BE A PROBLEM?
ARE YOU SAYING MY PHOTOS WERE JUST LUCKY?!
UM...
NO WAY...
WELL, SWORDFISH ISN'T SPICY, SO THAT'S FINE.
IF YOU GET YOUR TONGUE NUMB JUST FROM EATING SOMETHING A LITTLE SPICY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP THE LUCK!
WELL, SOMETIMES YOU CAN GET LUCKY WITH PHOTOS, THOUGH.

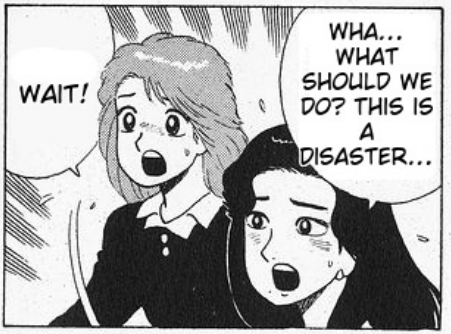
8

COOKING MASTER 21



OH! THERE'S NO WAY I'M WORKING FOR A NEWSPAPER THAT HAS A GUY LIKE THAT AS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF!
I'M TURNING DOWN THE JOB FROM THE EAST-WEST GRAPH!
YOU RUDE BASTARD! GET OUT!


YAMAOKA, DO SOMETHING!


WAIT!
WHA... WHAT SHOULD WE DO? THIS IS A DISASTER...

WELL... YOU REALLY TOOK WHAT CHIKIJO SAID SERIOUSLY?!

10

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO DO ANYTHING FOR THAT GUY.
THAT GUY WAS RUDE TO ME TOO.
YOU SHOULD DO IT; YOU'RE CLOSE, AFTER ALL.

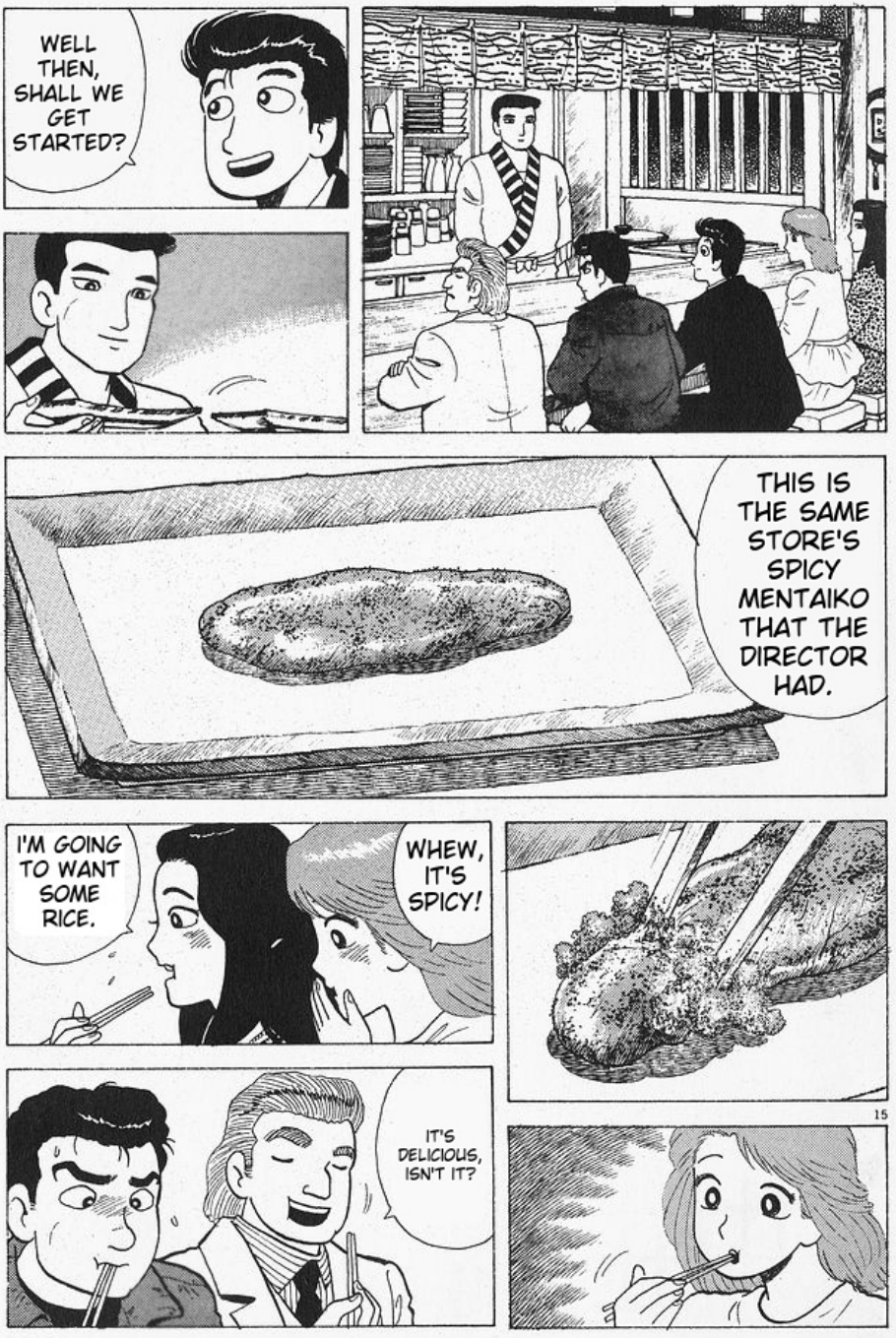
DELICIOUS!

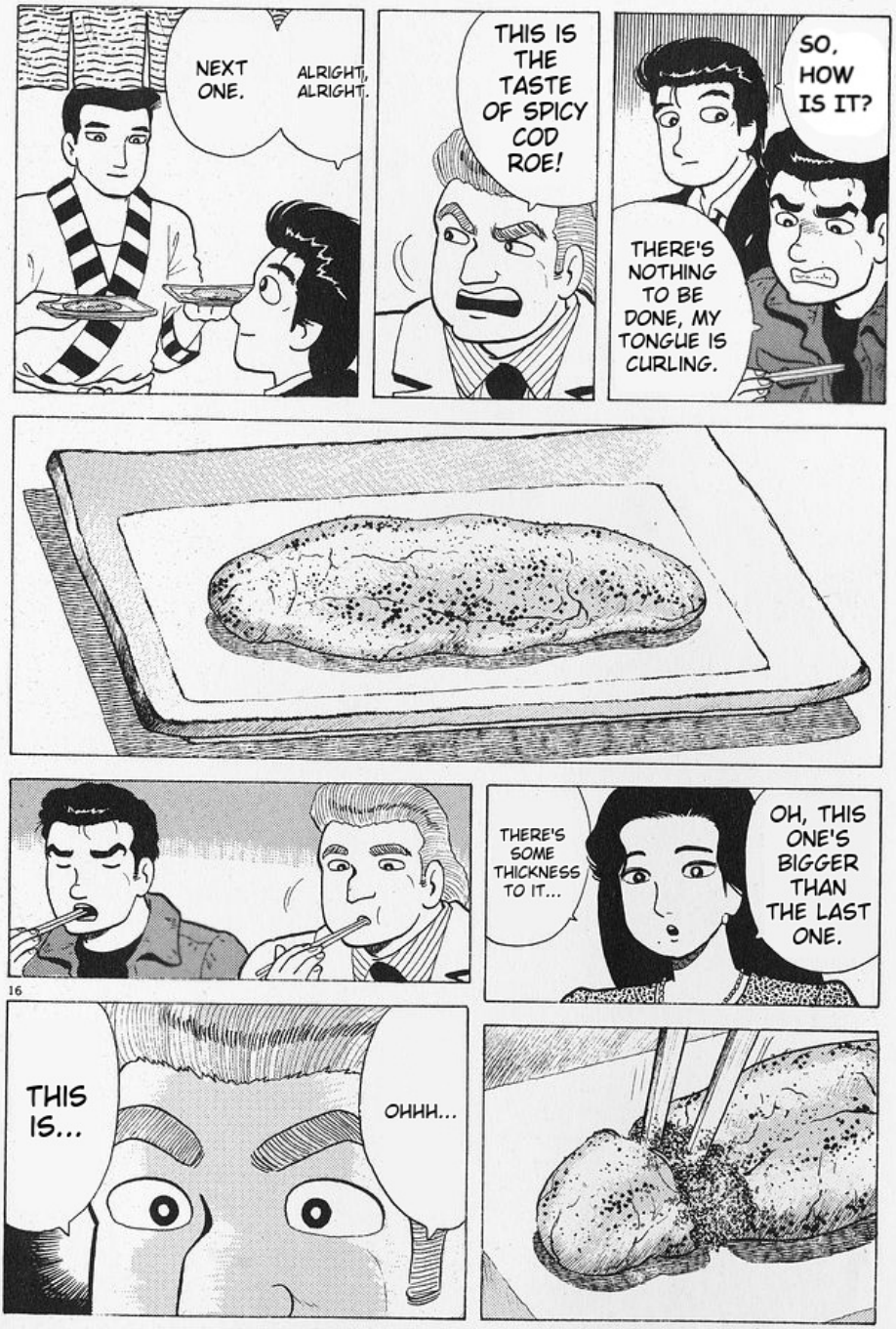
YOU'RE SUCH A JERK, YAMAOKA-SAN!
THAT'S NOT RIGHT AT ALL! YOU STARTED IT WHEN YOU ACTED LIKE MY JOKE WAS SERIOUS!
.....
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE IT WAS POINTED OUT, AND YOU'RE MAD ABOUT IT!
WE WERE JUST KIDDING, BUT YOU DECIDED TO BE NASTY TO CHIKIJO-SAN!!!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT'S NOT IT!
JAPAN HAS MANY SHAMEFUL FOODS, BUT SPICY MENTAIKO IS THE WORST OF THEM ALL!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TWO...
IT'S ALSO NO GOOD TO BRAG ABOUT IT TO A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO'S NEVER EVEN HAD IT PREPARED PROPERLY!!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHAT?! SPICY MENTAIKO IS A SHAMEFUL FOOD?!

I'VE HELD BACK FROM FIRING YOU UNTIL NOW, BUT TODAY I WON'T HOLD BACK!
YOU'RE TALKING BIG! LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE!
AH... IT'S A DISASTER...
WHAT?! ARE YOU SAYING I'VE NEVER HAD DECENT COD ROE?!
THAT'S WHY YOU TWIST MY WORDS AND SAY SUCH CYNICAL THINGS!
THAT'S RIGHT!
DECIDE WHO'S GOING FIRST, MAKE IT FAIR.
I CAN'T TAKE ON BOTH OF YOU AT ONCE.
12
HMPH... LET'S HEAR IT THEN!
CHIKIJO, DO YOU ALSO WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU NEVER HAD DECENT COD ROE?
YAMAOKA! LET'S HEAR YOUR REASONING FOR WHY SPICY COD ROE IS SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF!
I'LL GO FIRST!

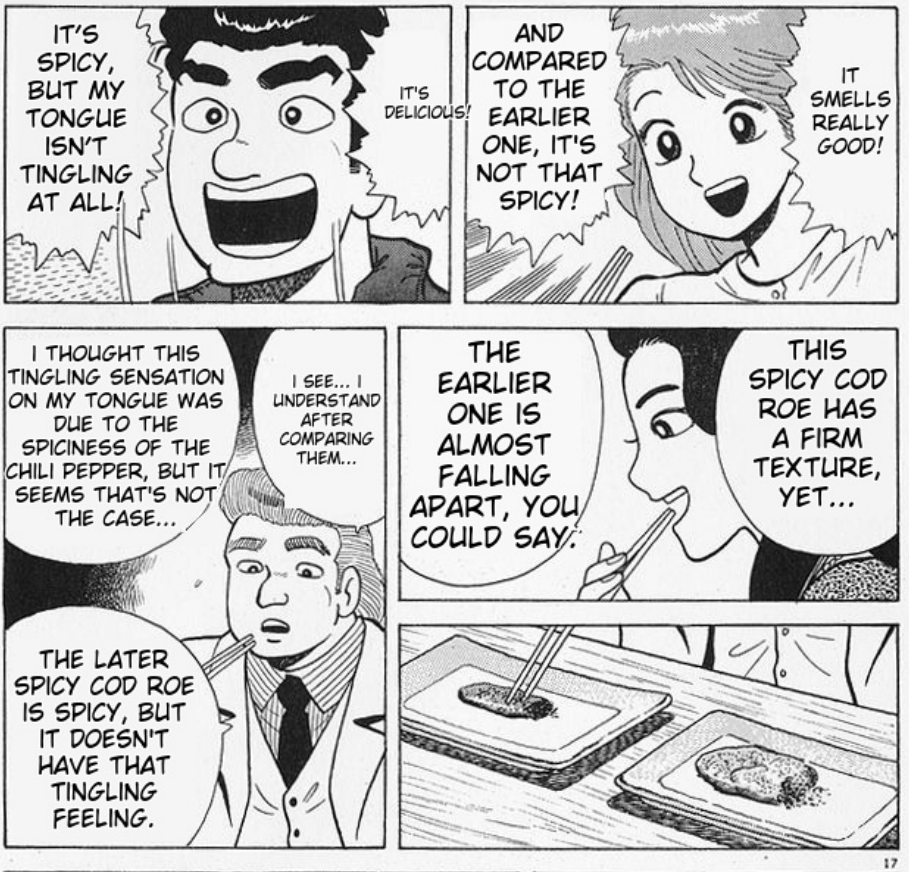
ALRIGHT, THREE DAYS THEN. DON'T FORGET!
GRR...
OKAY?
THEN, PLEASE WAIT THREE DAYS.
ドガ
.....
YAMAOKA-SAN...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THREE DAYS?

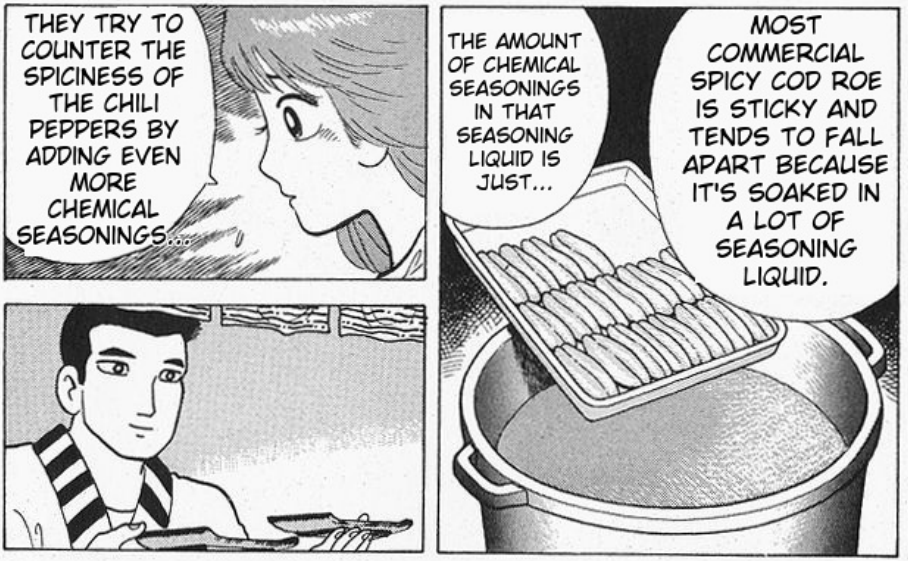
スヤ〜〜〜…
THREE DAYS LATER...
IT'S ALMOST TIME, I HAVE TO WAKE YOU UP.
I WONDER IF IT'S REALLY OKAY TO BE NAPPING SO LEISURELY...
UGH...
YAMAOKA, WAKE UP!
14
岡星
岡星
ふわわあぁ
IS IT THAT YOU'RE THICK-SKINNED, OR JUST CARELESS...?
AH...

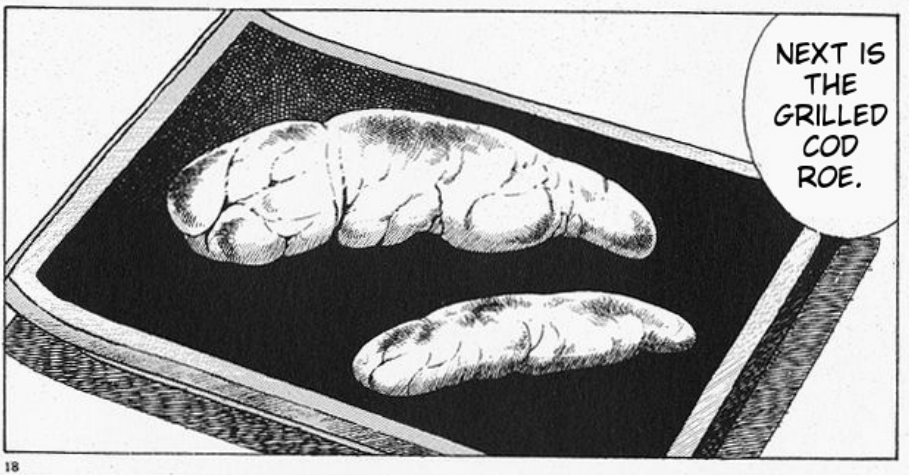

WELL THEN, SHALL WE GET STARTED?
THIS IS THE SAME STORE'S SPICY MENTAIKO THAT THE DIRECTOR HAD.
I'M GOING TO WANT SOME RICE.
WHEW, IT'S SPICY!
IT'S DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT?


NEXT ONE.
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
THIS IS THE TASTE OF SPICY COD ROE!
SO, HOW IS IT?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE, MY TONGUE IS CURLING.
THERE'S SOME THICKNESS TO IT...
OH, THIS ONE'S BIGGER THAN THE LAST ONE.
THIS IS...
OHHH...

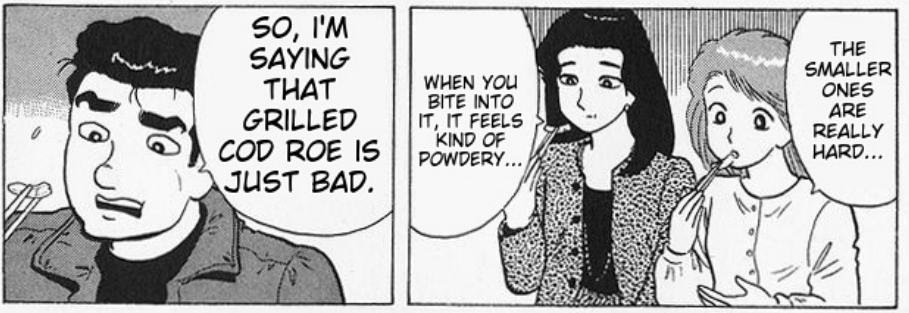
COOKING MASTER 21

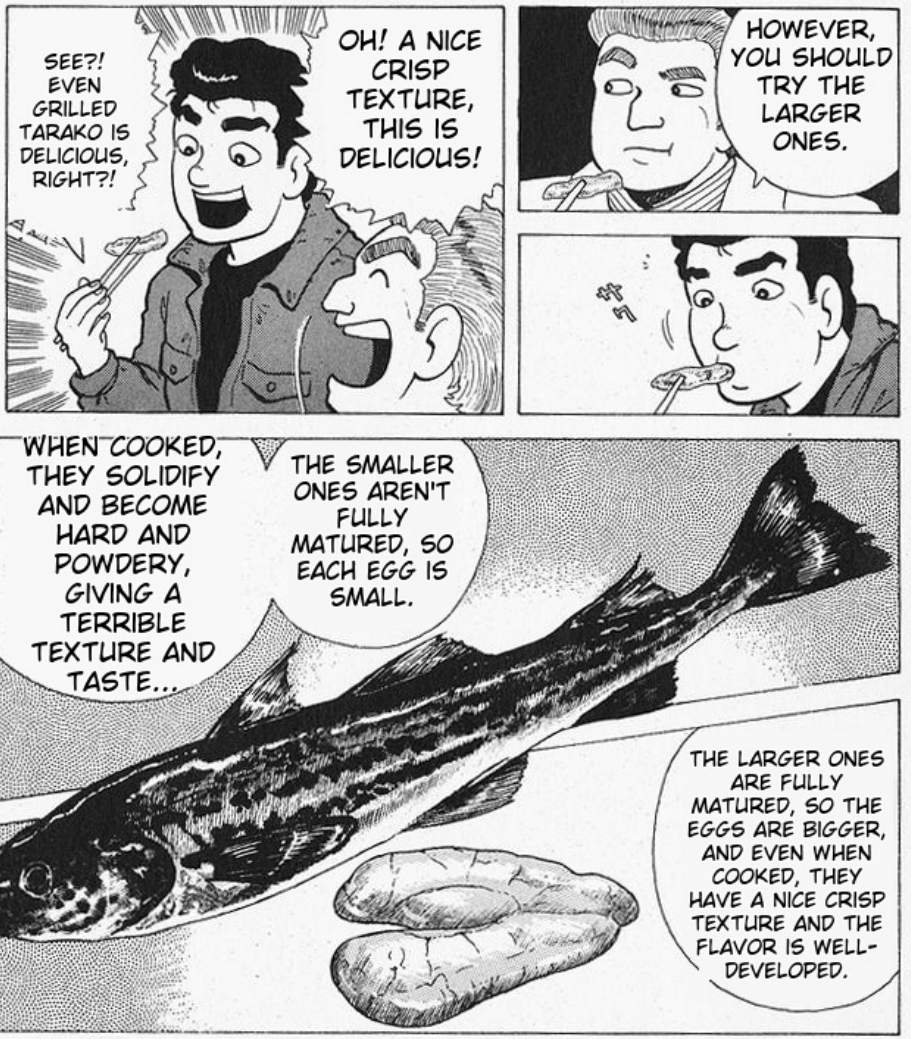


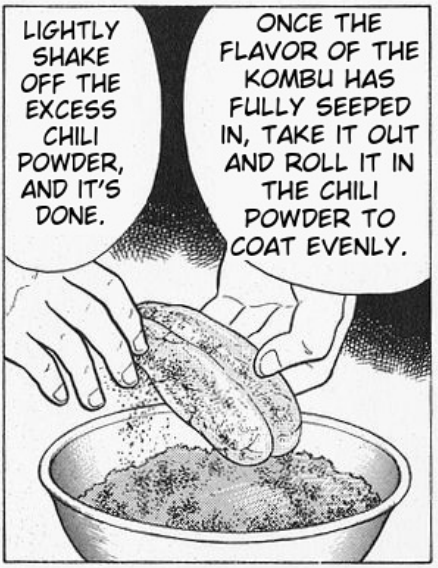

THEY TRY TO COUNTER THE SPICINESS OF THE CHILI PEPPERS BY ADDING EVEN MORE CHEMICAL SEASONINGS...
THE AMOUNT OF CHEMICAL SEASONINGS IN THAT SEASONING LIQUID IS JUST...
MOST COMMERCIAL SPICY COD ROE IS STICKY AND TENDS TO FALL APART BECAUSE IT'S SOAKED IN A LOT OF SEASONING LIQUID.

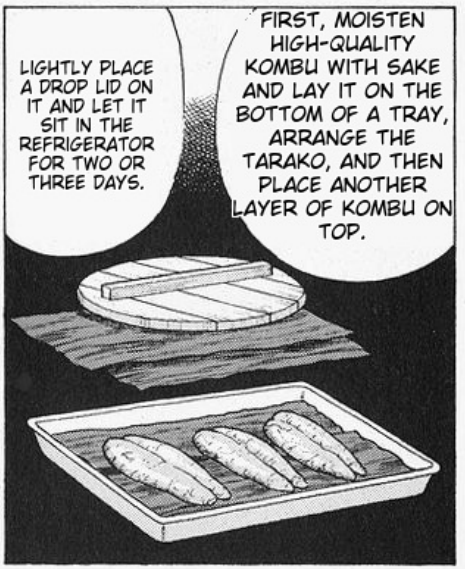

NEXT IS THE GRILLED COD ROE.

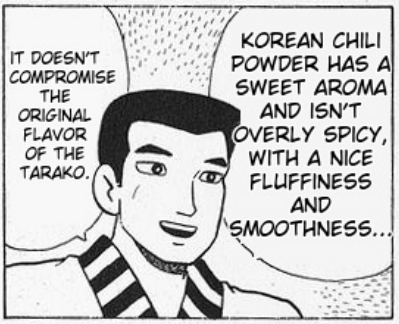
18

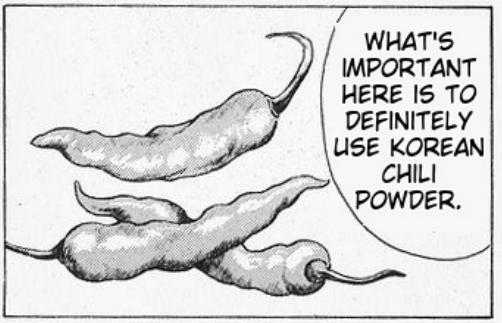

SO, I'M SAYING THAT GRILLED COD ROE IS JUST BAD.
WHEN YOU BITE INTO IT, IT FEELS KIND OF POWDERY...
THE SMALLER ONES ARE REALLY HARD...


SEE?! EVEN GRILLED TARAKO IS DELICIOUS, RIGHT?!
OH! A NICE CRISP TEXTURE, THIS IS DELICIOUS!
HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD TRY THE LARGER ONES.
WHEN COOKED, THEY SOLIDIFY AND BECOME HARD AND POWDERY, GIVING A TERRIBLE TEXTURE AND TASTE...
THE SMALLER ONES AREN'T FULLY MATURED, SO EACH EGG IS SMALL.
THE LARGER ONES ARE FULLY MATURED, SO THE EGGS ARE BIGGER, AND EVEN WHEN COOKED, THEY HAVE A NICE CRISP TEXTURE AND THE FLAVOR IS WELL-DEVELOPED.
19
OKABOSHI-SAN, EXPLAIN THE SPICY MENTAIKO OVER HERE.
SO THAT'S WHY THEY SAID I'VE NEVER EATEN GOOD TARAKO...
Y-YEAH...

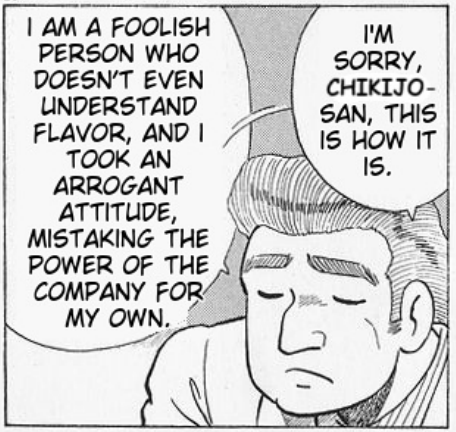

LIGHTLY SHAKE OFF THE EXCESS CHILI POWDER, AND IT'S DONE.
ONCE THE FLAVOR OF THE KOMBU HAS FULLY SEEPED IN, TAKE IT OUT AND ROLL IT IN THE CHILI POWDER TO COAT EVENLY.


LIGHTLY PLACE A DROP LID ON IT AND LET IT SIT IN THE REFRIGERATOR FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS.
FIRST, MOISTEN HIGH-QUALITY KOMBU WITH SAKE AND LAY IT ON THE BOTTOM OF A TRAY, ARRANGE THE TARAKO, AND THEN PLACE ANOTHER LAYER OF KOMBU ON TOP.


IT DOESN'T COMPROMISE THE ORIGINAL FLAVOR OF THE TARAKO.
KOREAN CHILI POWDER HAS A SWEET AROMA AND ISN'T OVERLY SPICY, WITH A NICE FLUFFINESS AND SMOOTHNESS...

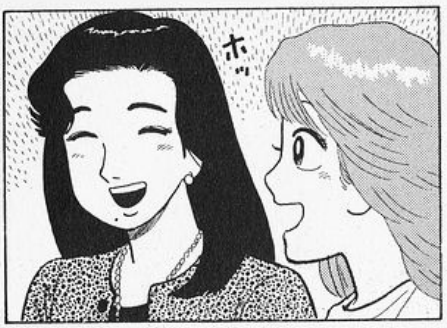

WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE IS TO DEFINITELY USE KOREAN CHILI POWDER.

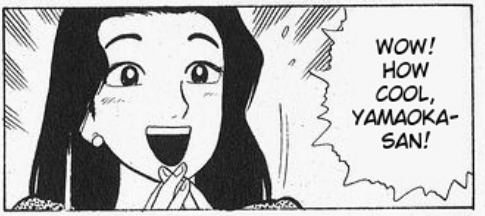
20


I AM A FOOLISH PERSON WHO DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND FLAVOR, AND I TOOK AN ARROGANT ATTITUDE, MISTAKING THE POWER OF THE COMPANY FOR MY OWN.
I'M SORRY, CHIKIJO-SAN, THIS IS HOW IT IS.

HMM... I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YAMAOKA SAID TO WAIT THREE DAYS; THIS IS TRULY THE REAL FLAVOR.

COOKING MASTER 21

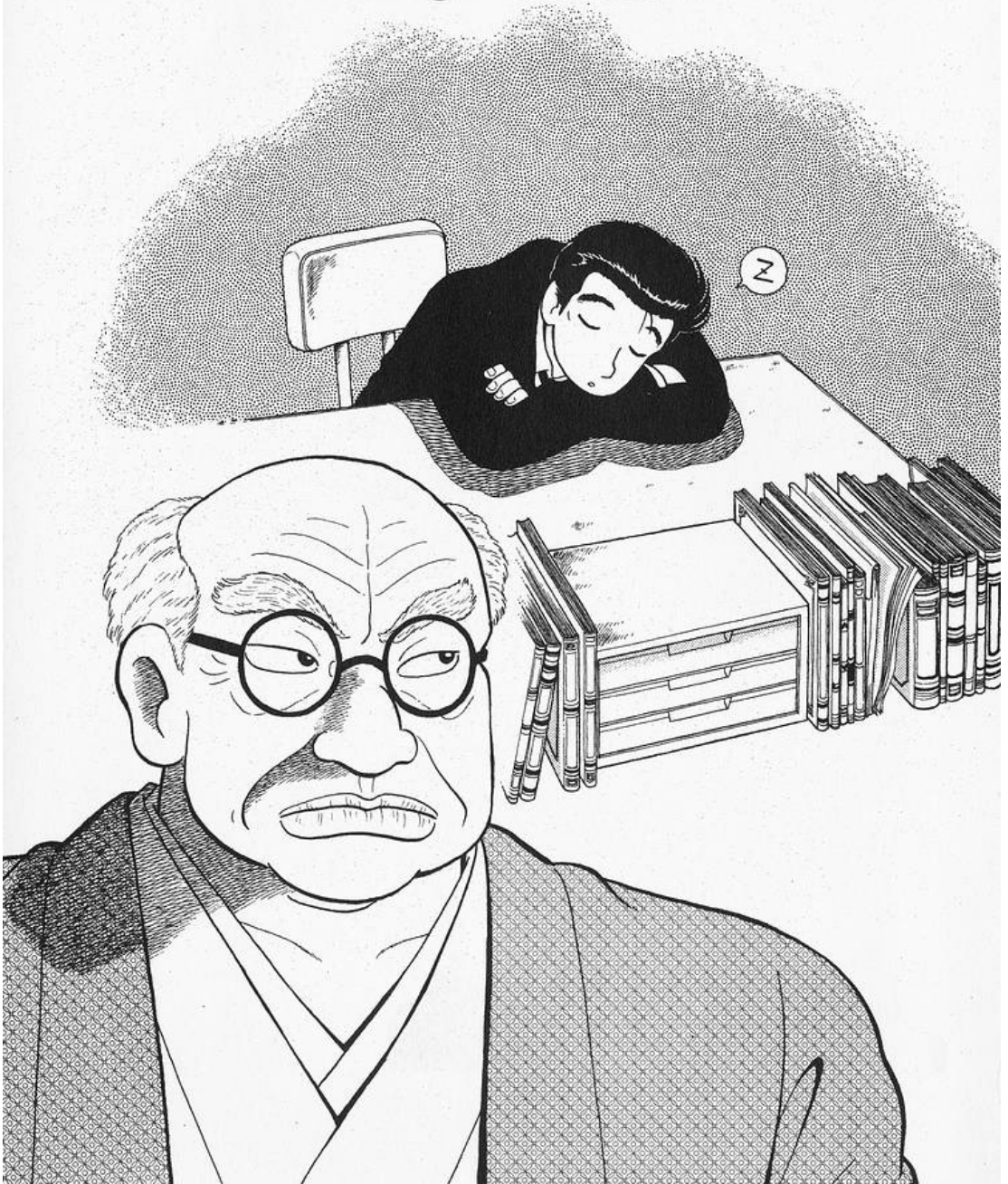


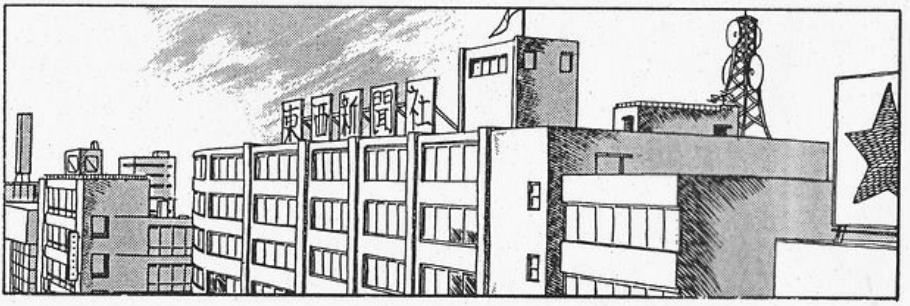


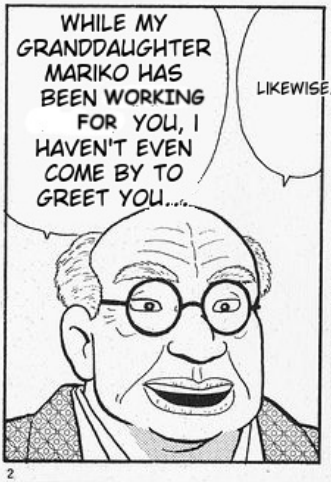
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
W-WAIT... THIS DOESN'T FEEL VERY PEACEFUL.
EH?
PLENTY OF SPICY COD ROE SPRINKLED WITH CHILI PEPPER!
YAMAOKA-KUN, I'M GOING TO TREAT YOU TO SOME REALLY DELICIOUS SPICY COD ROE.
ギャアアア
PLEASE STOP!
S-STOP IT!

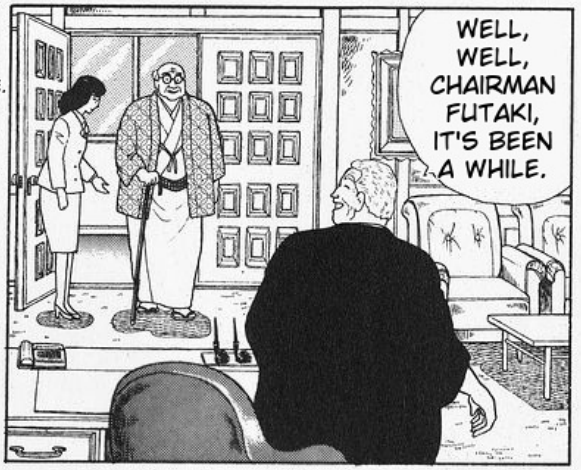
LOOK AT HIS LIPS!
THEY'RE SWOLLEN!
OKAY, MAYBE WE WENT TOO FAR...
THE NEXT DAY...

第10話 命と器





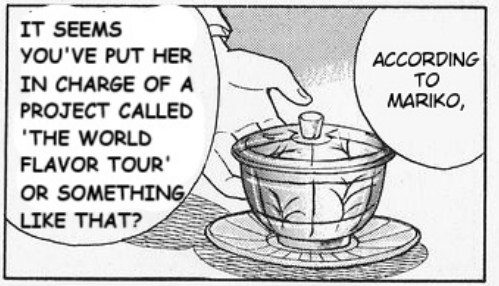

WHILE MY GRANDDAUGHTER MARIKO HAS BEEN WORKING FOR YOU, I HAVEN'T EVEN COME BY TO GREET YOU...
LIKEWISE.

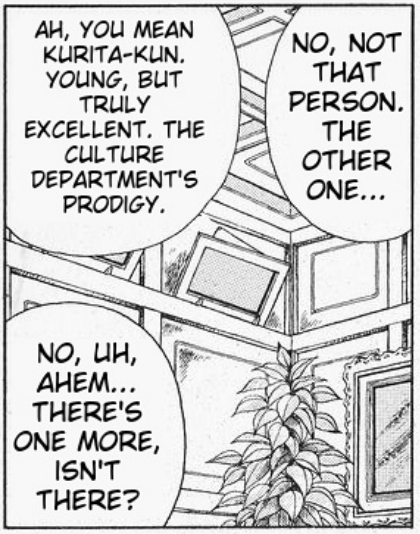

WELL, WELL, CHAIRMAN FUTAKI, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

2

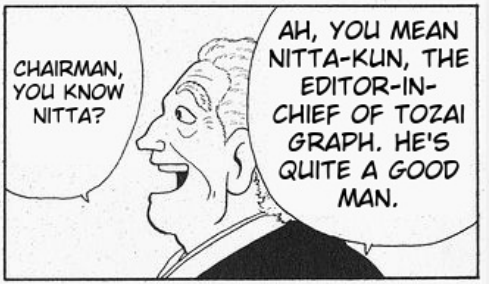
WA HA HA HA, IT'S BECAUSE MY GREEDY EATING HABITS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED WITHIN THE COMPANY,
I'VE BEEN TROUBLED BY NOTHING BUT FOOD-RELATED PROJECTS.

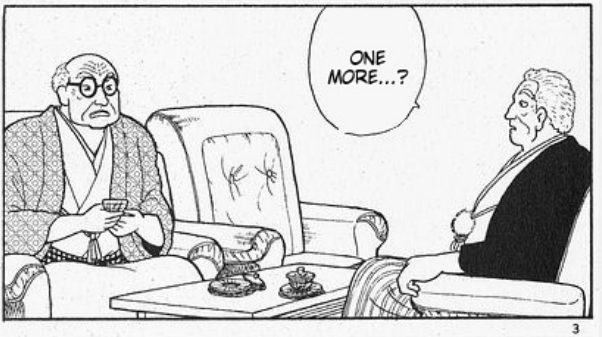
PLEASE, GO AHEAD.


IT SEEMS YOU'VE PUT HER IN CHARGE OF A PROJECT CALLED 'THE WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
ACCORDING TO MARIKO,


AH, YOU MEAN KURITA-KUN. YOUNG, BUT TRULY EXCELLENT. THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT'S PRODIGY.
NO, NOT THAT PERSON. THE OTHER ONE...
NO, UH, AHEM... THERE'S ONE MORE, ISN'T THERE?

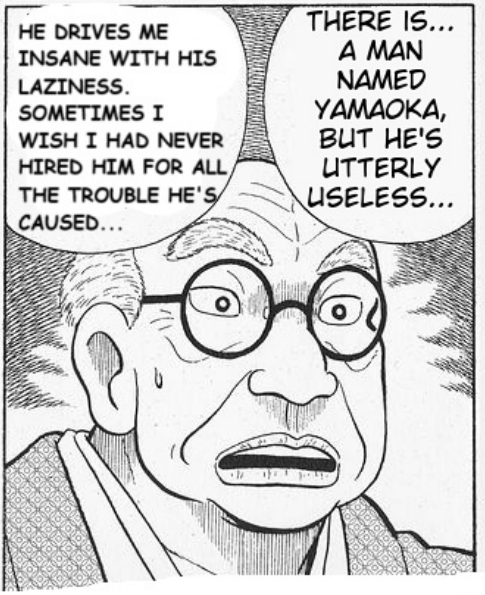
AND SO... MARIKO'S CO-WORKER...


CHAIRMAN, YOU KNOW NITTA?
AH, YOU MEAN NITTA-KUN, THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF TOZAI GRAPH. HE'S QUITE A GOOD MAN.


ONE MORE...?

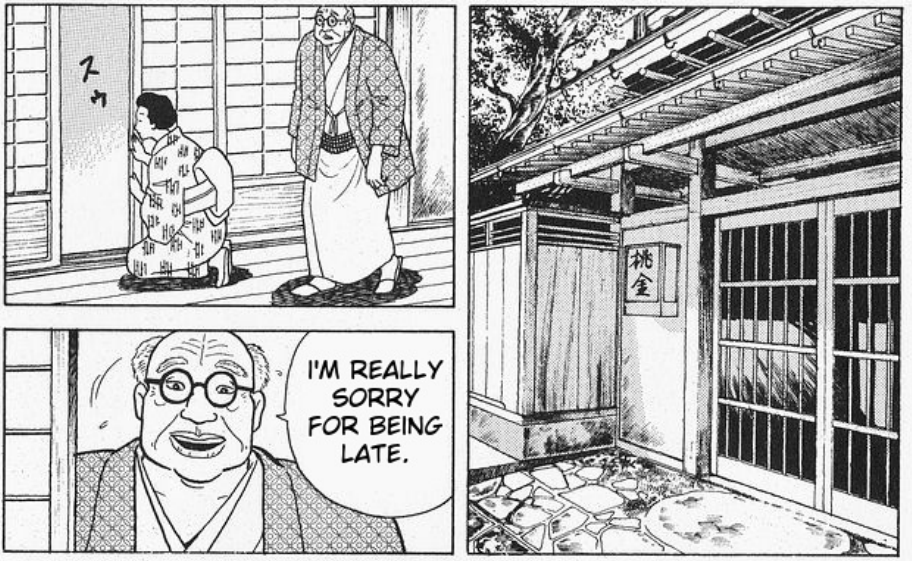
3

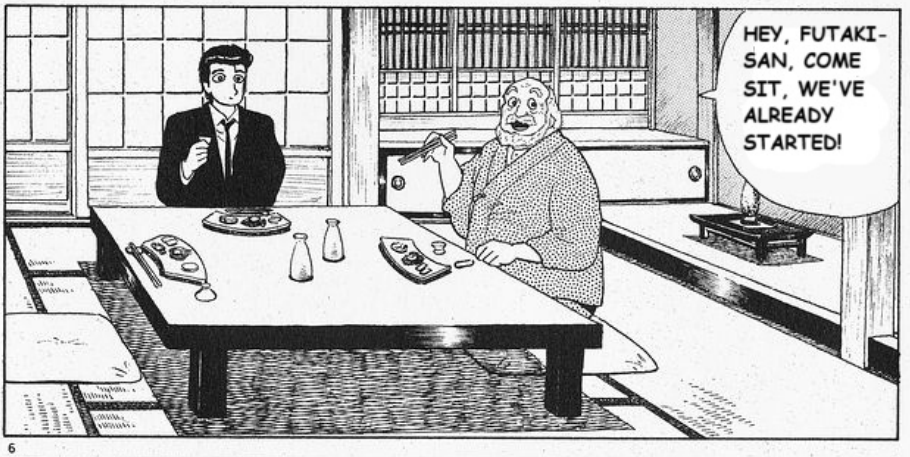
H-HE'S THAT AWFUL OF A MAN?!
OH, FUTAKI-SAN, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!


THERE IS... A MAN NAMED YAMAOKA, BUT HE'S UTTERLY USELESS...
HE DRIVES ME INSANE WITH HIS LAZINESS. SOMETIMES I WISH I HAD NEVER HIRED HIM FOR ALL THE TROUBLE HE'S CAUSED...

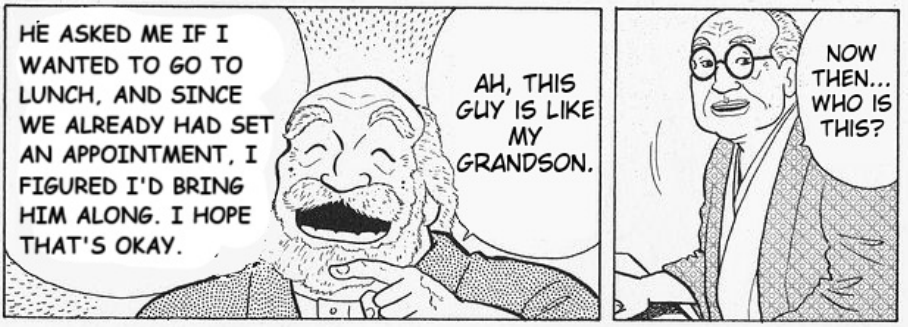
EVEN TO ME, HE SAYS NOTHING BUT SELFISH THINGS.
HE DOESN'T LISTEN TO HIS BOSS AT ALL; ON THE CONTRARY, HE'S EXTREMELY REBELLIOUS.
AND HIS RECORD OF TARDINESS AND ABSENCES IS THE WORST IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COMPANY...
THE WORK THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED A LONG TIME AGO HAS BEEN DRAGGED OUT FOR YEARS...
あちゃ・・
ABSOLUTELY NOT! I RECOMMEND A VISION TEST FOR ANY LADY WHO WOULD LIKE THAT MAN!
ギャ/\/\/\
HUH? YAMAOKA?
W-WELL... THAT MAN IS HANDSOME AND POPULAR WITH THE FEMALE EMPLOYEES...?
ガチャ
ガチャ
GOOD DAY, OHARA-SAN!
I AM VERY DISPLEASED!
HOW COULD YOU LET MY PRECIOUS GRANDDAUGHTER WORK WITH SUCH A MAN!
THEN, THERE'S NOT A SINGLE REDEEMING QUALITY ABOUT HIM!

I WONDER WHAT GOT INTO HIM?
WAIT A MOMENT!
W-WAIT A MINUTE, CHAIRMAN FUTAKI!
THAT MAN, YAMAOKA, IS WAY WORSE THAN WHAT MARIKO SAID!
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
5
YES!
I NEED TO HURRY, I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR OUR APPOINTMENT...
MY DAUGHTER MUST BE OUT OF HER DAMN MIND!!!
TO THINK SHE WOULD EVEN CONSIDER MARRYING SUCH A MAN...


I'M REALLY SORRY FOR BEING LATE.


HEY, FUTAKI-SAN, COME SIT, WE'VE ALREADY STARTED!

6


HE ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO GO TO LUNCH, AND SINCE WE ALREADY HAD SET AN APPOINTMENT, I FIGURED I'D BRING HIM ALONG. I HOPE THAT'S OKAY.
AH, THIS GUY IS LIKE MY GRANDSON.
NOW THEN... WHO IS THIS?

HEY, PROPERLY GREET HIM.
I'M YAMAOKA, NICE TO MEET YOU.
THANKS.
IT'S QUITE ALRIGHT! IF TOYAMA THINKS OF YOU AS A GRANDSON, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN!
HE WORKS FOR THE TOZAI NEWS, BUT HE'S REALLY JUST A LAZY SLACKER! HAHAHAHA!
HEY!!!
MR. YAMAOKA?
ギクリ
THIS IS MR. FUTAKI. HE'S THE CHAIR OF NITO BANK.
OH... THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.
HE MUST HAVE MET MARIKO'S FATHER AND KNOWS HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE NITO BANK, BUT... IS HE SLOW...?
THIS MAN... DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT I'M MARIKO'S GRANDFATHER...?
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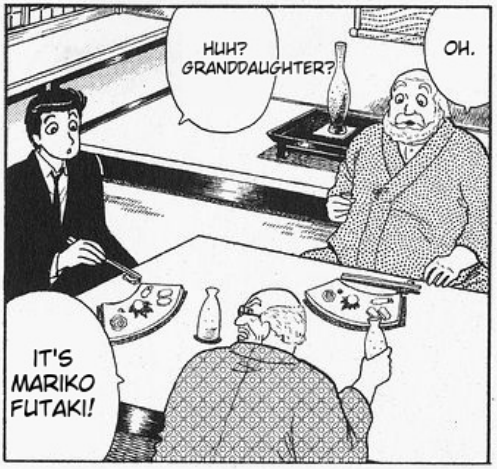
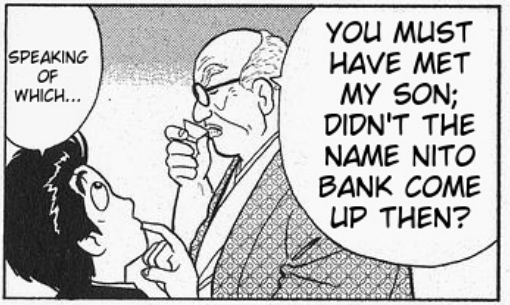

HUH? GRANDDAUGHTER?
OH.
IT'S MARIKO FUTAKI!

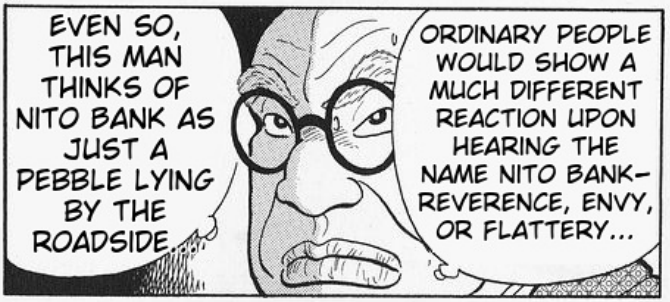
YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER WORKS ON THAT TOO, RIGHT?
SHIRO IS IN CHARGE OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' PROJECT THERE, AND I BELIEVE HE WORKS ON THE 'WORLD FLAVOR TOUR' PROJECT AS WELL.

WELL, I HAVE NO SAVINGS, AND I CAN'T GET A LOAN, HA, HA, HA...
AHAHAHA, FOR A POOR SALARYMAN LIKE ME, A BANK HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

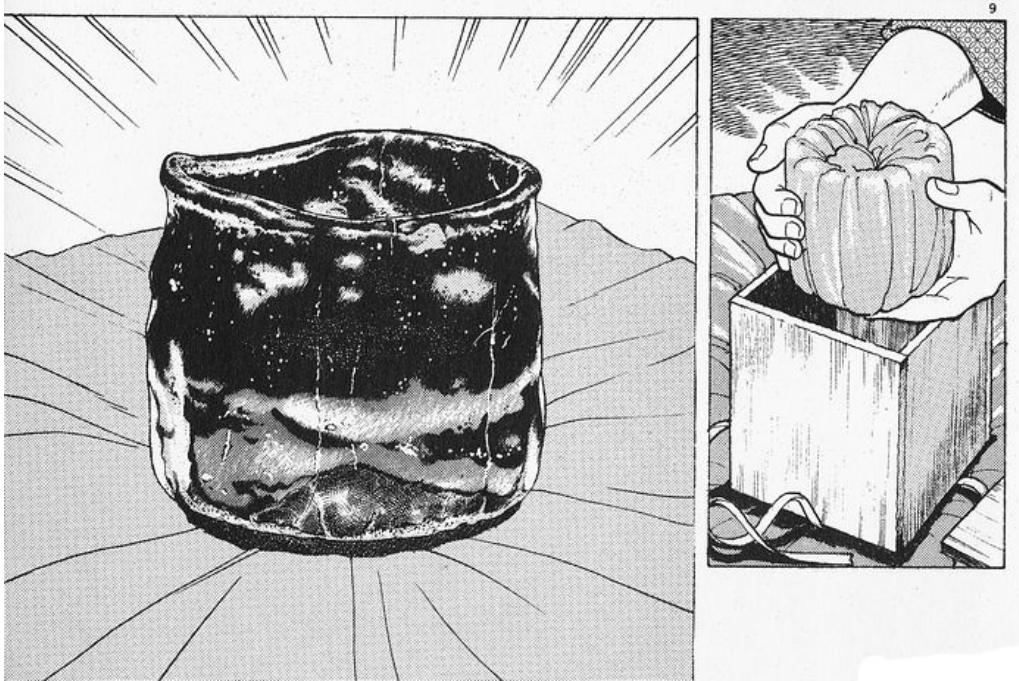
SO YOU'RE MARIKO'S GRANDFATHER?! SORRY, IT JUST DIDN'T OCCUR TO ME! HAHAHA!

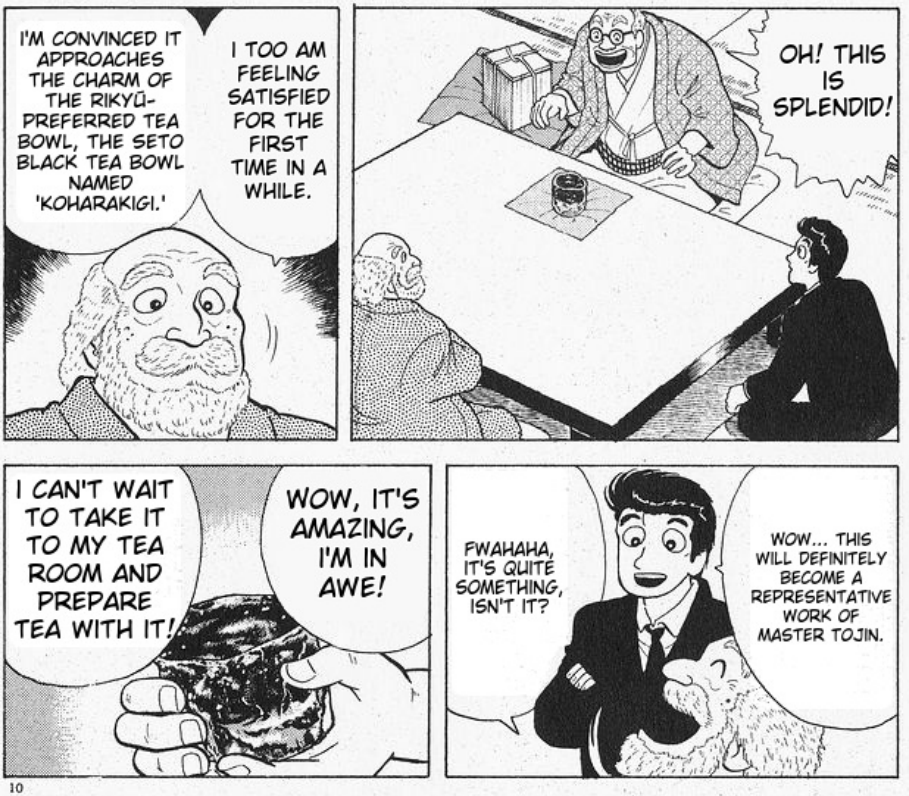

SPEAKING OF WHICH...
YOU MUST HAVE MET MY SON; DIDN'T THE NAME NITO BANK COME UP THEN?

8

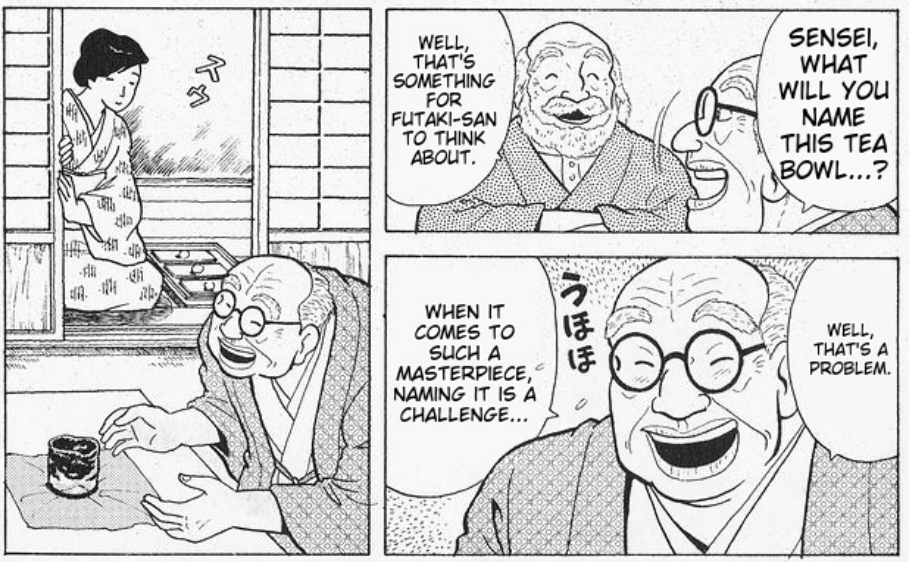

EVEN SO, THIS MAN THINKS OF NITO BANK AS JUST A PEBBLE LYING BY THE ROADSIDE...
ORDINARY PEOPLE WOULD SHOW A MUCH DIFFERENT REACTION UPON HEARING THE NAME NITO BANK– REVERENCE, ENVY, OR FLATTERY...

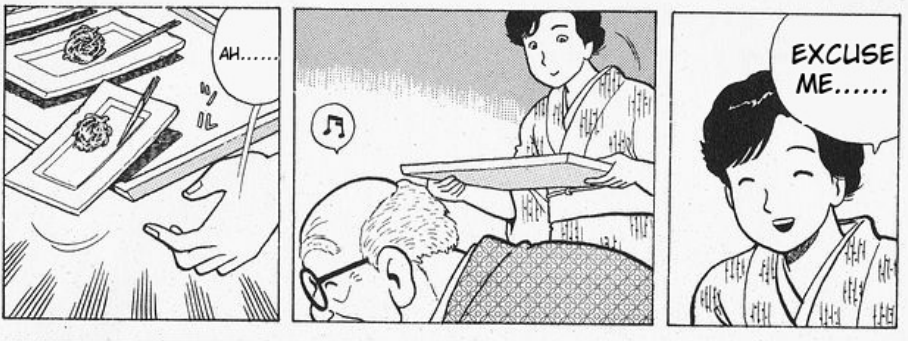
DELICIOUSNESS 2

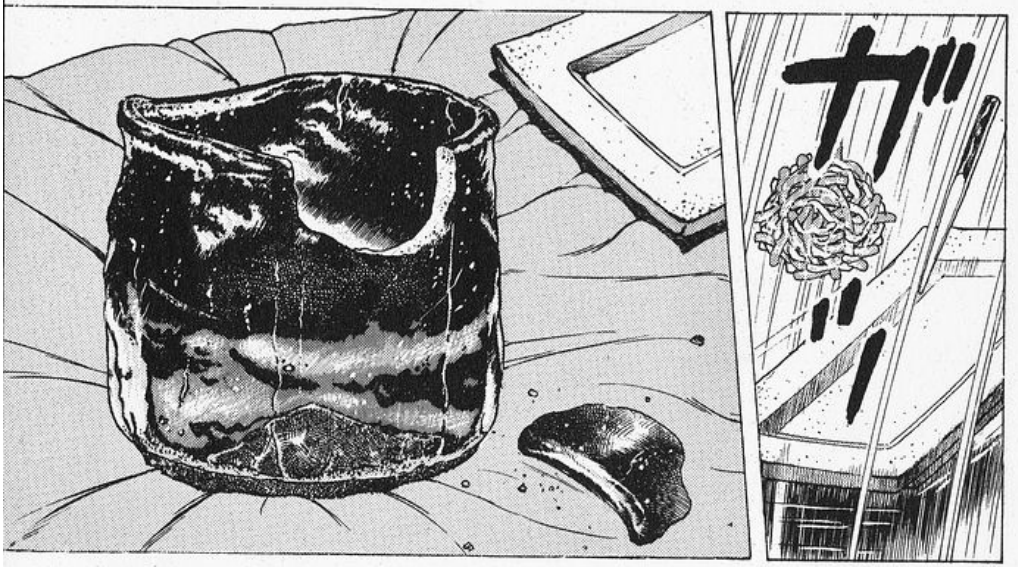



I'M CONVINCED IT APPROACHES THE CHARM OF THE RIKYŪ-PREFERRED TEA BOWL, THE SETO BLACK TEA BOWL NAMED 'KOHARAKIGI.'
I TOO AM FEELING SATISFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.
OH! THIS IS SPLENDID!
I CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE IT TO MY TEA ROOM AND PREPARE TEA WITH IT!
WOW, IT'S AMAZING, I'M IN AWE!
FWAHAHA, IT'S QUITE SOMETHING, ISN'T IT?
WOW... THIS WILL DEFINITELY BECOME A REPRESENTATIVE WORK OF MASTER TOJIN.

10


WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING FOR FUTAKI-SAN TO THINK ABOUT.
SENSEI, WHAT WILL YOU NAME THIS TEA BOWL...?
WHEN IT COMES TO SUCH A MASTERPIECE, NAMING IT IS A CHALLENGE...
うほほ
WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM.


AH.....
EXCUSE ME.....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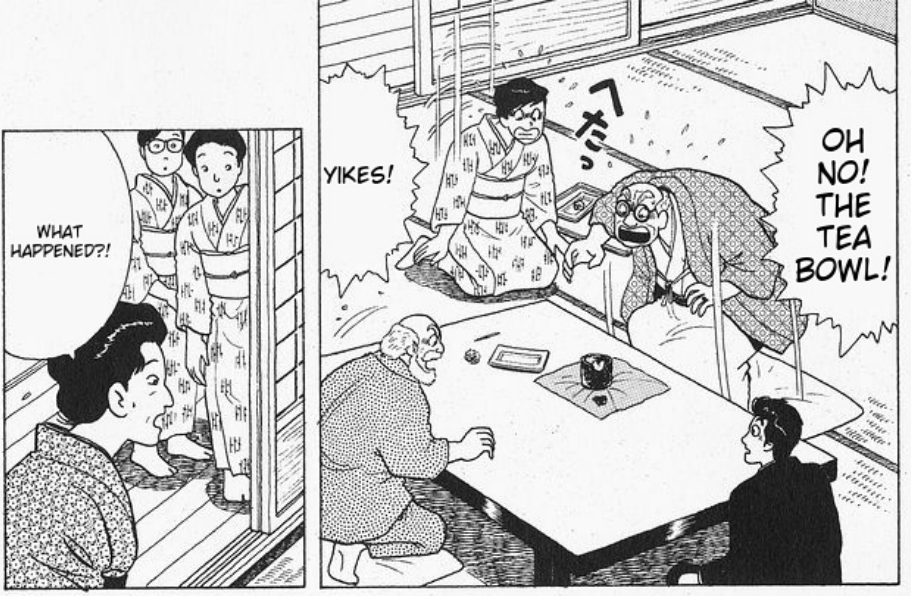
!!
WHOA!
YIKES!


OH NO! THE TEA BOWL!
YIKES!
WHAT HAPPENED?!

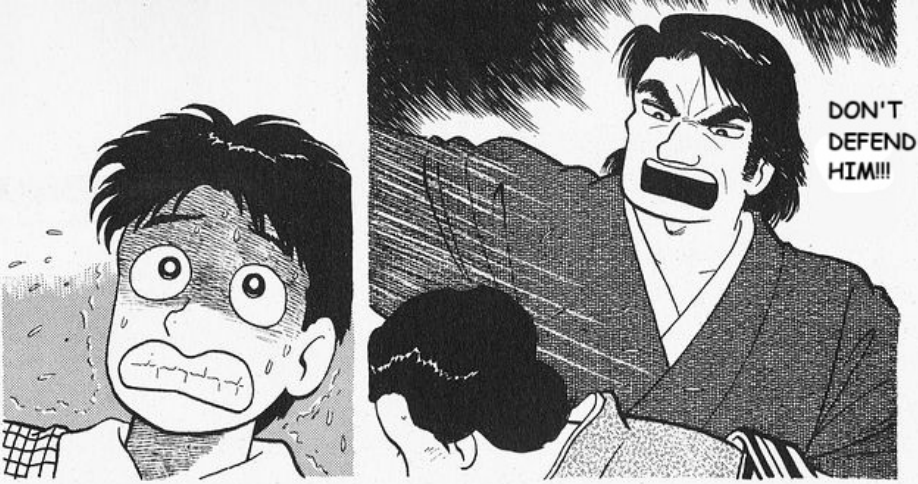
THIS WOMAN BROKE MR. TOYAMA'S MASTERPIECE, THE SETO BLACK TEA BOWL!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT -!! LOOK, MADAM!

12

MR. TOYAMA TOJIN IS A NATIONAL TREASURE! HIS WORKS ARE PRICELESS!
THAT TREASURE IN SUCH A STATE!
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE SOLVED WITH AN APOLOGY! NO AMOUNT OF MONEY CAN COMPENSATE!

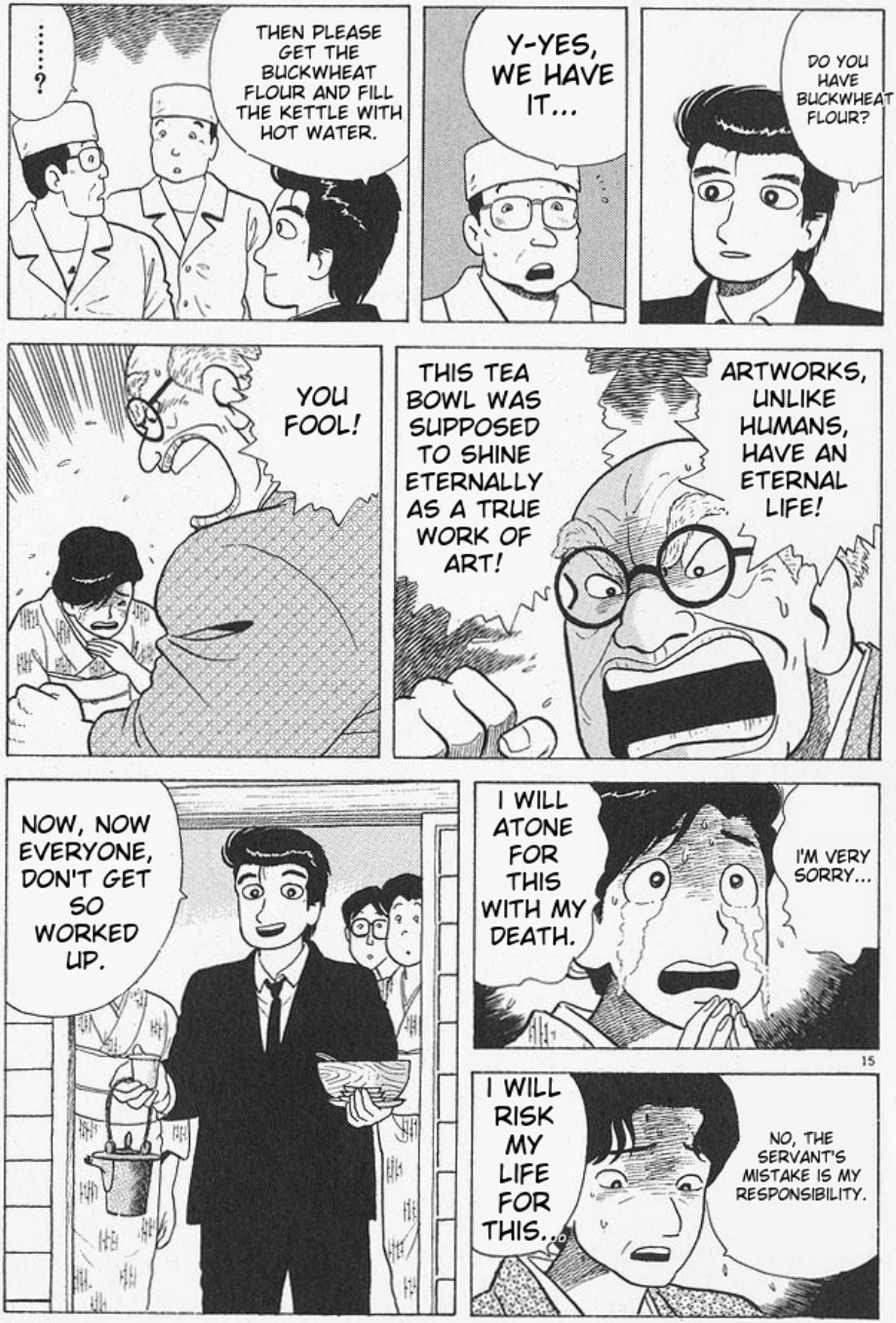
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

DELICIOUSNESS 2


DON'T DEFEND HIM!!!

.....
THIS WOMAN HAS DESTROYED A WORK OF ART THAT SURELY LEFT ITS MARK ON JAPANESE ART HISTORY!

14

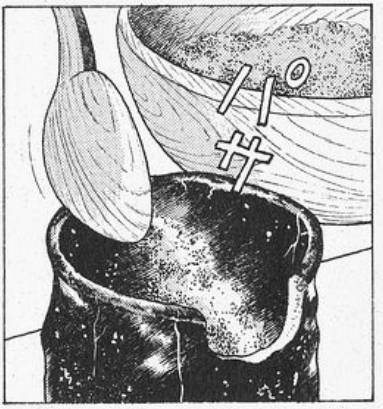

.....?
THEN PLEASE GET THE BUCKWHEAT FLOUR AND FILL THE KETTLE WITH HOT WATER.
Y-YES, WE HAVE IT...
DO YOU HAVE BUCKWHEAT FLOUR?
YOU FOOL!
THIS TEA BOWL WAS SUPPOSED TO SHINE ETERNALLY AS A TRUE WORK OF ART!
ARTWORKS, UNLIKE HUMANS, HAVE AN ETERNAL LIFE!
NOW, NOW EVERYONE, DON'T GET SO WORKED UP.
I WILL ATONE FOR THIS WITH MY DEATH.
I'M VERY SORRY...
15
I WILL RISK MY LIFE FOR THIS...
NO, THE SERVANT'S MISTAKE IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO TRY THIS.
WHEN I FIRST SAW IT, IT CLICKED WITH ME.

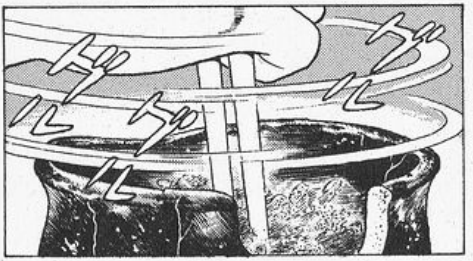
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

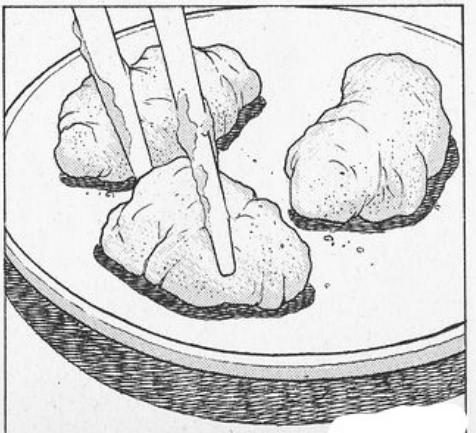
W-WAIT! STOP IT!

WHOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

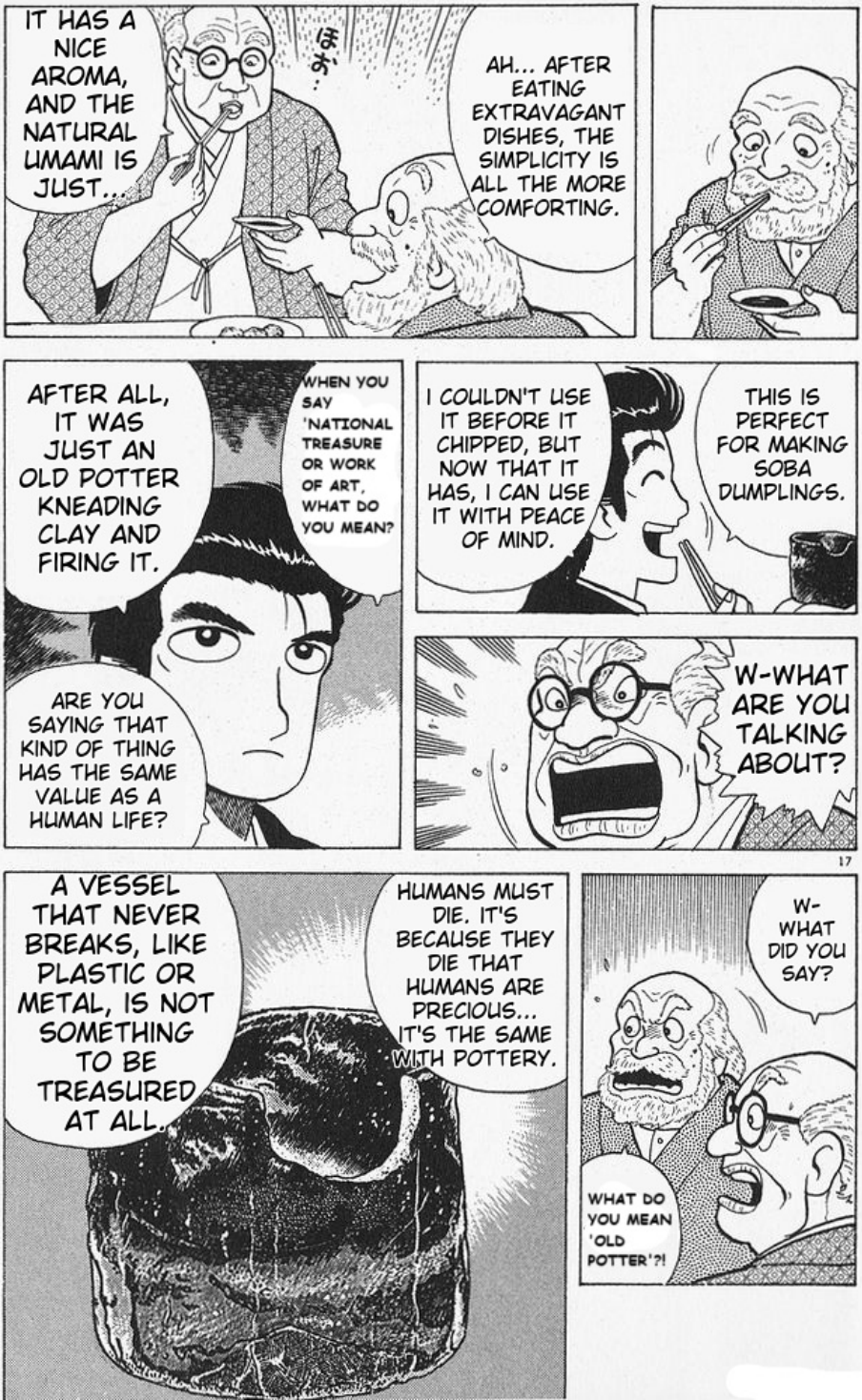


IT'S SOBAGAKI, PLEASE EAT IT WITH SOY SAUCE.
OH, THIS SCENT... IT'S BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.
SOBAGAKI?



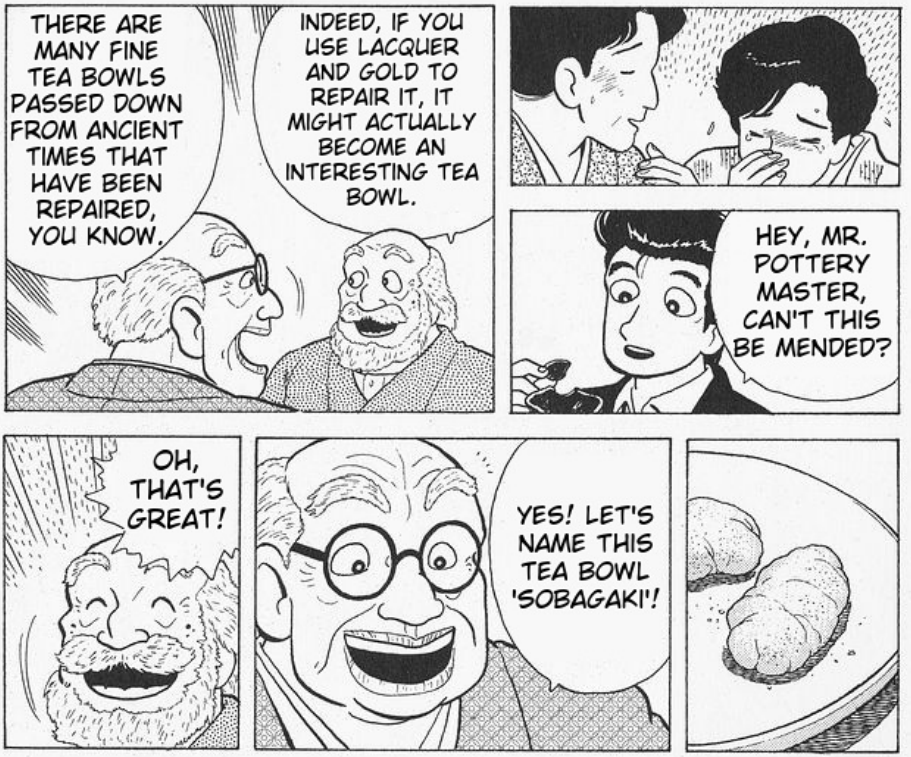


OISHINBO 21



AH... AFTER EATING EXTRAVAGANT DISHES, THE SIMPLICITY IS ALL THE MORE COMFORTING.
ほお…
IT HAS A NICE AROMA, AND THE NATURAL UMAMI IS JUST...
THIS IS PERFECT FOR MAKING SOBA DUMPLINGS.
I COULDN'T USE IT BEFORE IT CHIPPED, BUT NOW THAT IT HAS, I CAN USE IT WITH PEACE OF MIND.
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHEN YOU SAY 'NATIONAL TREASURE OR WORK OF ART, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AFTER ALL, IT WAS JUST AN OLD POTTER KNEADING CLAY AND FIRING IT.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT KIND OF THING HAS THE SAME VALUE AS A HUMAN LIFE?
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'OLD POTTER'?!
HUMANS MUST DIE. IT'S BECAUSE THEY DIE THAT HUMANS ARE PRECIOUS... IT'S THE SAME WITH POTTERY.
A VESSEL THAT NEVER BREAKS, LIKE PLASTIC OR METAL, IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TREASURED AT ALL.

.....
IT'S A FLEETING AND SAD THING, BUT ISN'T THAT WHY IT'S BEAUTIFUL AND VALUABLE?
THIS TEACUP IS A REAL TEACUP, AND THAT'S WHY IT HAS A CHIP.
AS USUAL, YOU'RE SPOUTING SOME RIDICULOUS REASONING.
THE FACT THAT WE CAN MAKE SUCH WONDERFUL SOBAGAKI MEANS THIS TEACUP HAS ACHIEVED MUCH MORE THAN JUST BEING USED FOR DRINKING TEA, DON'T YOU THINK?
BESIDES, SOBAGAKI IS NUTRITIOUS; IT HAS MUCH MORE PROTEIN THAN SOBA NOODLES THAT ARE STRETCHED AND BOILED.
I'M ASHAMED TO BE SO ATTACHED TO THINGS AT THIS AGE, UNABLE TO FORGIVE OTHERS' MISTAKES...
I FEEL EMBARRASSED.
EVERYTHING THAT HAS FORM WILL INEVITABLY PERISH; IF IT BREAKS, WE CAN JUST MAKE IT AGAIN.
WELL, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.
I TRULY APOLOGIZE.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...


THERE ARE MANY FINE TEA BOWLS PASSED DOWN FROM ANCIENT TIMES THAT HAVE BEEN REPAIRED, YOU KNOW.
INDEED, IF YOU USE LACQUER AND GOLD TO REPAIR IT, IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BECOME AN INTERESTING TEA BOWL.
HEY, MR. POTTERY MASTER, CAN'T THIS BE MENDED?
OH, THAT'S GREAT!
YES! LET'S NAME THIS TEA BOWL 'SOBAGAKI'!

HEY, HEY! IF YOU HANDLE IT ROUGHLY AND BREAK IT FURTHER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE SOBAGAKI!
WELL THEN, BEFORE WE RETURN TO THE TEA BOWL, LET'S MAKE SOME SOBAGAKI AGAIN.
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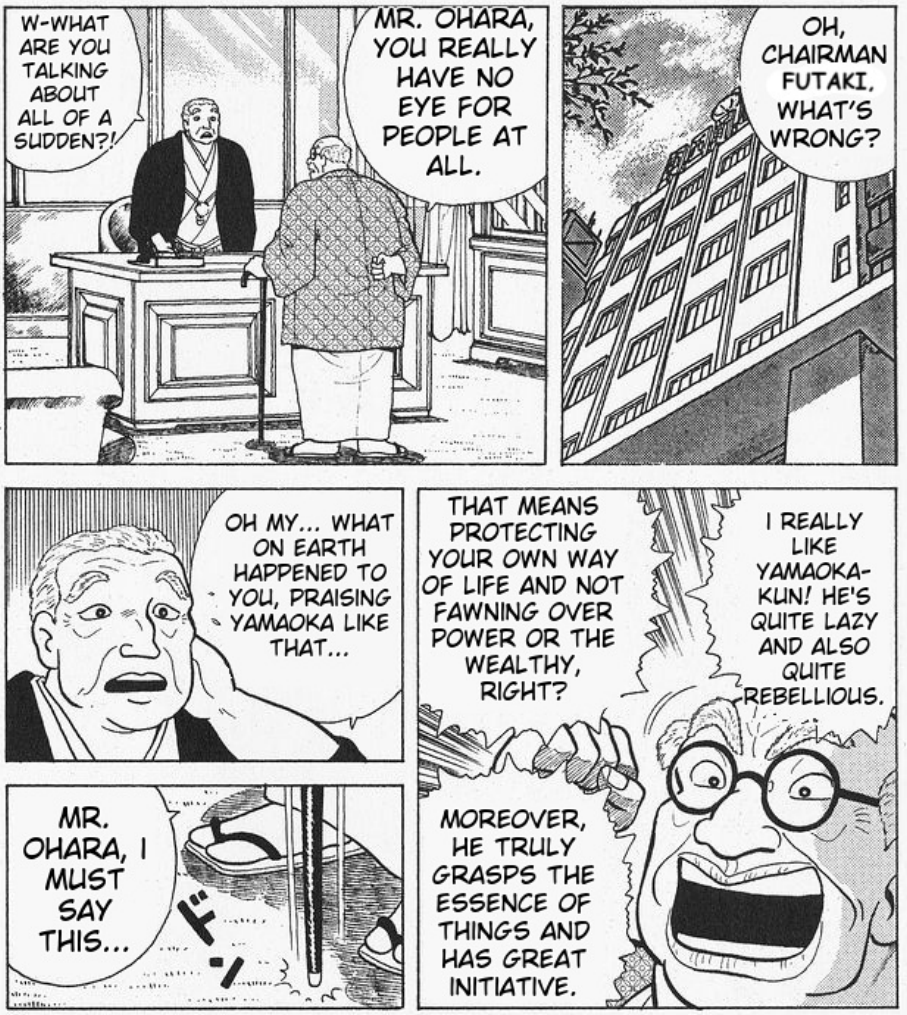
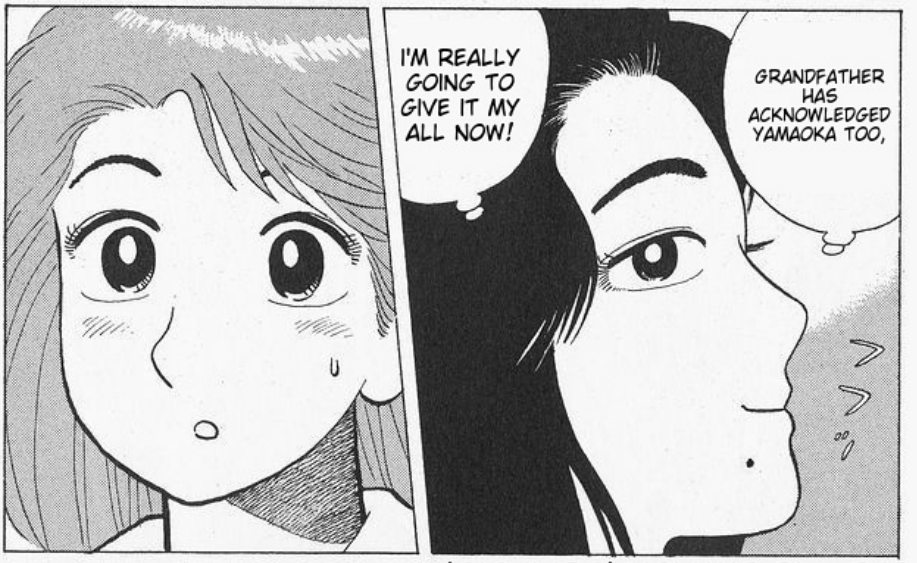
……


W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
MR. OHARA, YOU REALLY HAVE NO EYE FOR PEOPLE AT ALL.
OH, CHAIRMAN FUTAKI. WHAT'S WRONG?
OH MY... WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU, PRAISING YAMAOKA LIKE THAT...
THAT MEANS PROTECTING YOUR OWN WAY OF LIFE AND NOT FAWNING OVER POWER OR THE WEALTHY, RIGHT?
I REALLY LIKE YAMAOKA-KUN! HE'S QUITE LAZY AND ALSO QUITE REBELLIOUS.
MOREOVER, HE TRULY GRASPS THE ESSENCE OF THINGS AND HAS GREAT INITIATIVE.
MR. OHARA, I MUST SAY THIS...
ドン
20
IF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER WANTS TO MAKE THE NITO BANK GROUP THEIR ENEMY, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY...
ジロォ
I AM CONSIDERING YAMAOKA-KUN AS A CANDIDATE FOR OUR FUTAKI FAMILY'S SON-IN-LAW. THEREFORE, I HOPE YOU WILL TREAT HIM APPROPRIATELY AND NOT NEGLECT HIM!

……
バタン
WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME.
IS THAT SO? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT…
Y… YAMAOKA…
TO BECOME THE SON-IN-LAW OF THE FUTAKI FAMILY?!
21
MR. TŌJIN IS BROAD-MINDED, BUT,
FUTAKI'S GRANDFATHER IS A WONDERFUL PERSON.



'OISHINBO' VOLUME 21 - THE END -

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美味しんぼ(おいい)21　—穏やかな御馳走—

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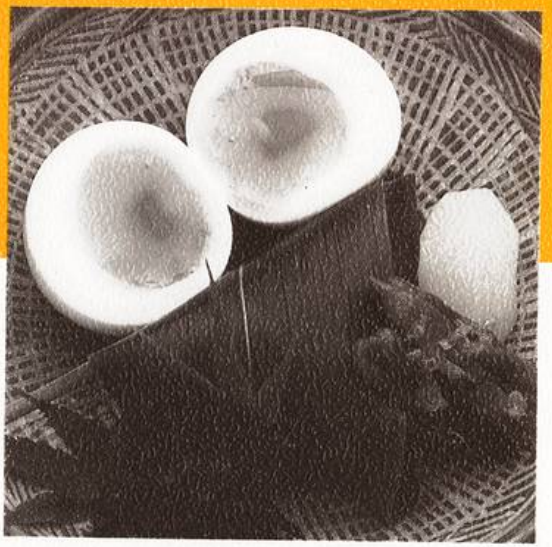
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